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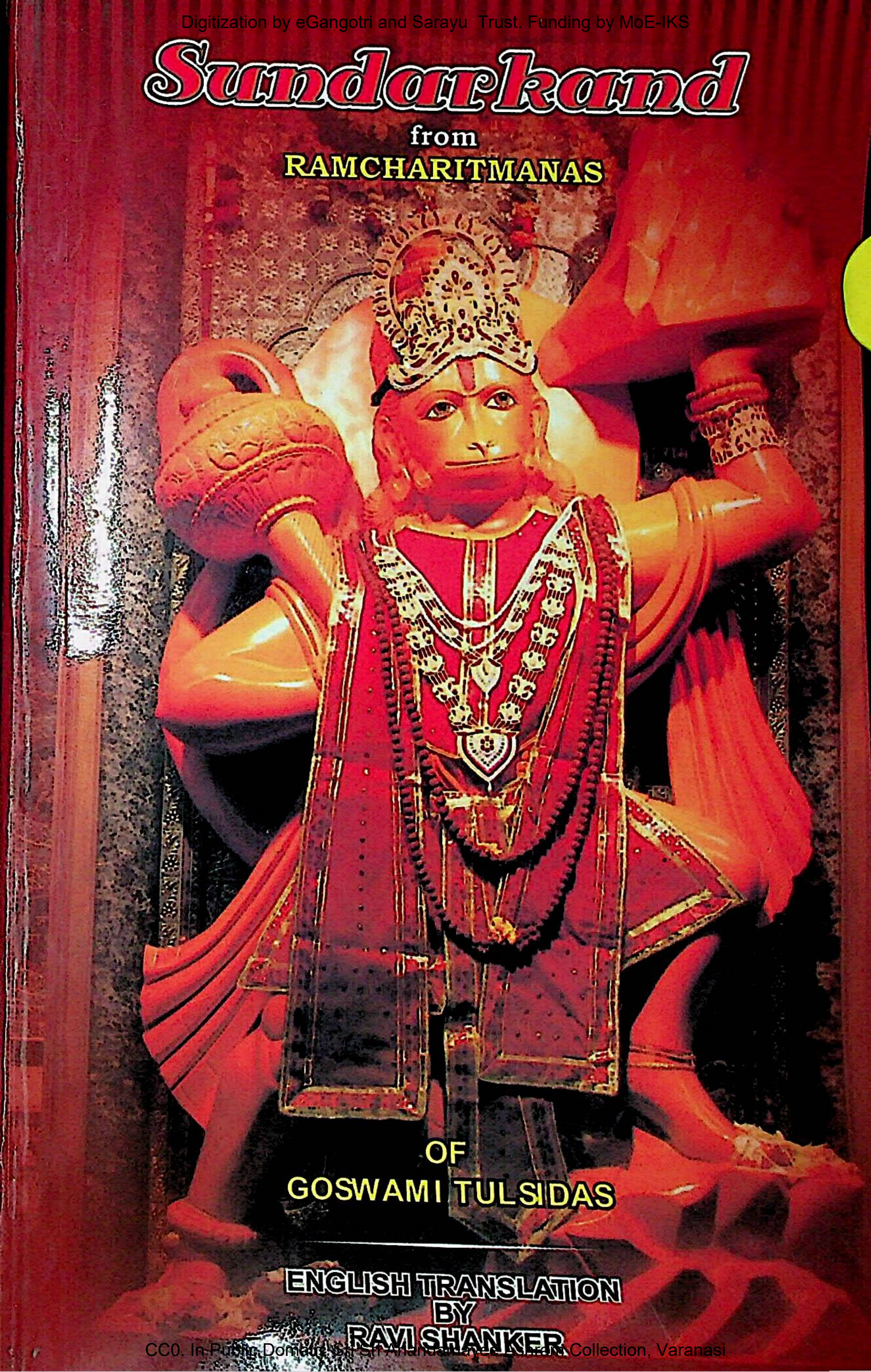
Sundarkand

from

RAMCHARITMANAS



OF

GOSWAMI TULSIDAS

ENGLISH TRANSLATION
BY
RAVI SHANKER

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SUNDARKAND
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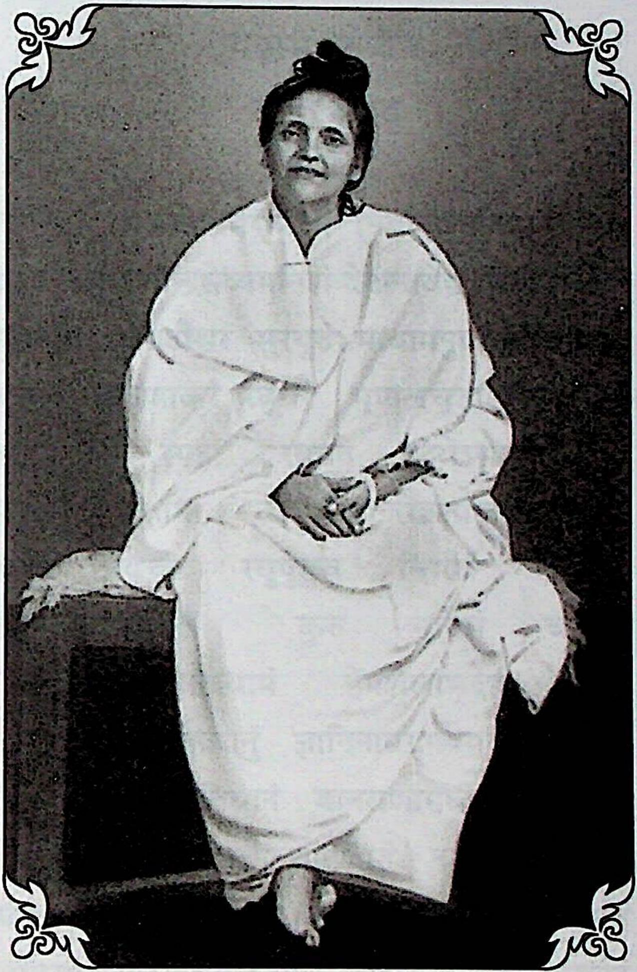
SHREE SHREE MA ANANDAMAYEE
(1896-1982)



WITH MA'S KRIPA
FOR MA'S KRIPA
TO MA'S KRIPA

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श्री गणेशाय नमः

श्रीरामचरितमानस

पञ्चम सोपान

सुन्दरकाण्ड

श्लोक

शान्तं शाश्वतमप्रमेयमनघं निर्वाणशान्तिप्रदं
ब्रह्माशम्भुफणीन्द्रसेव्यमनिशं वेदान्तवेद्यं विभुम्।
रामाख्यं जगदीश्वरं सुरगुरुं मायामनुष्यं हरिं
वन्देऽहं करुणाकरं रघुवरं भूपालचूडामणिम्।।१।।

नान्या स्पृहा रघुपते हृदयेऽस्मदीये
सत्यं वदामि च भवानखिलान्तरात्मा।
भक्तिं प्रयच्छ रघुपुङ्गव निर्भरां मे
कामादिदोषरहितं कुरु मानसं च।।२।।

अतुलितबलधामं हेमशैलाभदेहं
दनुजवनकृशानुं ज्ञानिनामग्रगण्यम्।
सकलगुणनिधानं वानराणामधीशं
रघुपतिप्रियभक्तं वातजातं नमामि।।३।।

जामवंत के बचन सुहाए। सुनि हनुमंत हृदय अति भाए।।
तब लगि मोहि परिखेहु तुम्ह भाई। सहि दुख कंदमूल फल खाई।।
जब लगि आवौं सीतहि देखी। होइहि काजु मोहि हरष बिसेषी।।
यह कहि नाइ सबन्हि कहुँ माथा। चलेउ हरषि हियँ धरि रघुनाथा।।
सिंधु तीर एक भूधर सुंदर। कौतुक कूदि चढ़ेउ ता ऊपर।।

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SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAH

SHREE RAMCHARITMANAS

CHAPTER-V

SUNDARKAND

Sh*

Tranquil, eternal, inscrutable, sinless, provider of the peace of eternal emancipation, constantly served by Brahma, Shambhu and Shesha, discovered through the study of Vedanta, omnipresent, lord of the world, the most venerable among gods, God in man's illusory form, compassionate, the most eminent Raghu, the sovereign of sovereigns and named 'Ram' - I worship you. 1

Raghupati, I speak the truth, besides, you dwell as the inner being in all. There is no other yearning in my heart. O hero of the Raghus, I am eager for the abundance of devotion. Please set my mind free from sensual and other blemishes.[1] 2

An abode of unequalled force, his body glitters like the golden mountain. He destroys demons like a forest fire. Venerated as the foremost among sages, treasure of all virtues, the chief of monkeys, a beloved devotee of Ram and an offspring of the winds - I pay obeisance to you. 3

C

Hanuman heard the encouraging words of Jambavanta[2], and said, "Brother, wait for me. Please bear this ordeal by eating tubers, roots, radishes and fruit till I come back after seeing Sita. The task will be fulfilled as I am overjoyed." Then Hanuman bowed to all, and remembering Ram, he departed. 1&2

On the sea-shore there was a beautiful hill. Hanuman playfully leapt over it. He recalled Ram again, and jumped with great force. 3

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* Abbreviations used for numbering :-
Shloka=Sh, Chaupai = C, Doha = D, Chhanda = Ch, Sortha = So.
See NOTES for poetic metres.

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बार बार रघुबीर सँभारी। तरकेउ पवनतनय बल भारी।।
जेहि गिरि चरन देइ हनुमंता। चलेउ सो गा पाताल तुरंता।।
जिमि अमोघ रघुपति कर बाना। एही भाँति चलेउ हनुमाना।।
जलनिधि रघुपति दूत बिचारी। तैं मैनाक होहि श्रमहारी।।
दो.– हनूमान तेहि परसा कर पुनि कीन्ह प्रनाम।
राम काजु कीन्हें बिनु मोहि कहाँ बिश्राम।।१।।
जात पवनसुत देवन्ह देखा। जानैं कहुँ बल बुद्धि बिसेषा।।
सुरसा नाम अहिन्ह कै माता। पठइन्हि आइ कही तेहि बाता।।
आजु सुरन मोहि दीन्ह अहारा। सुनत बचन कह पवनकुमारा।।
राम काजु करि फिरि मैं आवौं। सीता कइ सुधि प्रभुहिसुनावौं।।
तब तव बदन पैठिहउँ आई। सत्य कहउँ मोहि जान दे माई।।
कवनेहुँ जतन देइ नहिं जाना। ग्रससि न मोहि कहेउ हनुमाना।।
जोजन भरि तेहि बदनु पसारा। कपि तनु कीन्ह दुगुन बिस्तारा।।
सोरह जोजन मुख तेहिं ठयऊ। तुरत पवनसुत बत्तिस भयऊ।।
जस जस सुरसा बदनु बढ़ावा। तासु दून कपि रूप देखावा।।
सत जोजन तेहिं आनन कीन्हा। अति लघु रूप पवनसुत लीन्हा।।
बदन पइठि पुनि बाहेर आवा। मागा बिदा ताहि सिरु नावा।।
मोहि सुरन्ह जेहि लागि पठावा। बुधि बल मरमु तोर मैं पावा।।
दो.– राम काजु सबु करिहहु तुम्ह बल बुद्धि निधान।
आसिष देइ गई सो हरषि चलेउ हनुमान।।२।।

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The hills on which Hanuman stepped to take further leaps, plummeted into *Patala*.[3] He dashed forth like the unfailing arrow of Ram. 4

The sea realised that Hanuman was an emissary of Ram. It said to the *Mainak*[4] mountain, "Let him take rest on you." 5

Hanuman touched the mountain lightly, and then D
saluted it. He murmured, "Where is any respite for me till I complete the work of Ram?" 1
C

The gods saw Hanuman proceeding. They wanted to test his strength and intelligence, and sent Sursa, the mother of serpents. She spoke, "Today the gods have provided me a meal." Hanuman pleaded, "Let me fulfil the task of Ram, and bring the news of Sita for him. I shall then enter your mouth. Mother, I speak the truth. Let me go." But still Sursa did not release him. Then Hanuman said, "Why don't you devour me?" 1 & 2 & 3

Sursa opened her mouth one *yojana*[5] wide. Hanuman expanded his body twice as much. Then she stretched her mouth sixteen *yojana* wide. Hanuman enlarged himself to thirty two *yojanas*. 4

Just as Sursa would dilate the expanse of her mouth, Hanuman would display his form double in size. Finally, when she extended the circumference of her mouth measuring a hundred *yojanas*, Hanuman compressed himself to a very small size. 5

He entered her mouth, and came out. He bowed to her, and bade goodbye. She said, "I have assessed the potential of your intelligence and strength. 6
D

"You are a repository of valour and wisdom. You will accomplish the objective of Ram." Blessed by her Hanuman took leave happily. 2

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निसिचरि एक सिंधु महुँ रहई। करि माया नभु के खग गहई।।

जीव जंतु जे गगन उड़ाहीं। जल बिलोकि तिन्ह कै परिछाहीं।।

गहई छांहँ सक सो न उड़ाई। एहि बिधि सदा गगनचर खाई।।

सोइ छल हनूमान कहँ कीन्हा। तासु कपटु कपि तुरतहिं चीन्हा।।

ताहि मारि मारुतसुत बीरा। बारिधि पार गयउ मतिधीरा।।

तहाँ जाई देखी बन सोभा। गुंजत चंचरीक मधु लोभा।।

नाना तरु फल फूल सुहाए। खग मृग बृंद देखि मन भाए।।

सैल बिसाल देखि एक आगें। ता पर धाइ चढ़ेउ भय त्यागें।।

उमा न कछु कपि कै अधिकाई। प्रभु प्रताप जो कालहि खाई।।

गिरि पर चढ़ि लंका तेहि देखी। कहि न जाइ अति दुर्ग बिसेषी।।

अति उतंग जलनिधि चहु पासा। कनक कोट कर परम प्रकासा।।

छं.– कनक कोट बिचित्र मनि कृत सुंदरायतना घना।

चउहट्ट हट्ट सुबट्ट बीथीं चारु पुर बहु बिधि बना।।

गज बाजि खच्चर निकर पदचर रथ बरूथन्हि को गनै।

बहुरूप निसिचर जूथ अतिबल सेन बरनत नहिं बनै।।१।।

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C

A female demon[6] lived in the sea. She would catch hold of birds flying in the sky by conjuring delusion. She would look for the reflection of avian creatures in the water.Then she clenched the images so that the victims were unable to fly . Thus, she would eat the creatures of the firmament. She devised the same ruse with Hanuman, but he saw through her guile. 1 & 2

After killing her, the brave and steadfast Hanuman flew across the sea. On the shore he viewed the splendour of forests. Swarms of bees were humming greedily for nectar. 3

The profusion of trees, fruit and flowers was fascinating. The variety of birds and animals was alluring. Hanuman saw a large hill infront of him. He climbed up rapidly without fear. 4

Shiva[7] said to Parvati, "This was not because of the superiority of the monkey. But Hanuman had the support of Ram's energy which can consume even death." Hanuman saw Lanka from the hill. The fort was unique. 5

The fort rose to lofty heights. It was surrounded by the sea. Its golden ramparts were effulgent. 6

Ch

Jewels were embedded on golden boundary walls.There were several beautiful houses inside the precincts as well as squares, markets, avenues and streets. The city was decorated in different styles. There were elephants,horses, mules, pedestrians and countless chariots. The mighty army of multiform demons was beyond description. 1

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बन बाग उपबन बाटिका सर कूप बापीं सोहहीं।
नर नाग सुर गंधर्ब कन्या रूप मुनि मन मोहहीं।।
कहुँ माल देह बिसाल सैल समान अतिबल गर्जहीं।
नाना अखारेन्ह भिरहिं बहु बिधि एक एकन्ह तर्जहीं।।२।।
करि जतन भट कोटिन्ह बिकट तन नगर चहुँ दिसि रच्छहीं।
कहुँ महिष मानुष धेनु खर अज खल निसाचर भच्छहीं।।
एहि लागि तुलसीदास इन्ह की कथा कछु एक है कही।
रघुबीर सर तीरथ सरीरन्हि त्यागि गति पैहहिं सही।।३।।

दो.– पुर रखवारे देखि बहु कपि मन कीन्ह बिचार।
अति लघु रूप धरौं निसि नगर करौं पइसार।।३।।

मसक समान रूप कपि धरी। लंकहि चलेउ सुमिरि नरहरी।।
नाम लंकिनी एक निसिचरी। सो कह चलेसि मोहि निंदरी।।
जानेहि नहीं मरमु सठ मोरा। मोर अहार जहाँ लगि चोरा।।
मुठिका एक महा कपि हनी। रुधिर बमत धरनीं ढनमनी।।
पुनि संभारि उठी सो लंका। जोरि पानि कर बिनय ससंका।।
जब रावनहि ब्रह्म बर दीन्हा। चलत बिरंचि कहा मोहि चीन्हा।।
बिकल होसि तैं कपि कें मारे। तब जानेसु निसिचर संघारे।।
तात मोर अति पुन्य बहूता। देखेउँ नयन राम कर दूता।।

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Forests, groves, parks, gardens, ponds, wells and deep-wells with steps adorned the place. Young girls of different origins — human beings, *nagas*[8], gods and celestial deities captured the hearts of ascetics. At some places wrestlers with huge physiques bellowed. In some arenas they challenged and engaged each other in combat. 2

A large number of dreadful warriors guarded the citadel from all sides. At some places demons ate buffalos, human beings, cows, donkeys and goats. Tulsidas has given their brief description because they would achieve liberation after their demise at the holy place which is Ram's arrow. 3

D

Hanuman sighted many guards keeping watch over the city. So he decided to reduce his size to gain entry into the city unnoticed at night. 3

C

He took the shape of a mosquito. He recalled Ram, and proceeded towards Lanka. On the way he met a female demon. Her name was Lankini. She spoke to Hanuman,"You are trespassing and ignoring me. You do not know my mystery. All thieves are my food." Hanuman struck a blow. She tumbled down vomitting blood. 1 & 2

Lankini recovered, and stood. She joined her hands, and pleaded in fear, "Brahma gave me an indication while granting a boon to Ravana. 'When you are put to discomfiture by a monkey's blow, take it as a sign of destruction of the demon-race'. I see the messenger of Ram. It is due to my cumulative good deeds." 3 & 4

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दो.– तात स्वर्ग अपबर्ग सुख धरिअ तुला एक अंग।

तूल न ताहि सकल मिलि जो सुख लव सतसंग।।४।।

प्रबिसि नगर कीजे सब काजा। हृदयँ राखि कोसलपुर राजा।।

गरल सुधा रिपु करहिं मिताई। गोपद सिंधु अनल सितलाई।।

गरुड़ सुमेरु रेनु सम ताही। राम कृपा करि चितवा जाही।।

अति लघु रूप धरेउ हनुमाना। पैठा नगर सुमिरि भगवाना।।

मंदिर मंदिर प्रति करि सोधा। देखे जहँ तहँ अगनित जोधा।।

गयउ दसानन मंदिर माहीं। अति बिचित्र कहि जात सो नाहीं।।

सयन किएँ देखा कपि तेही। मंदिर महुँ न दीखि बैदेही।।

भवन एक पुनि दीख सुहावा। हरि मंदिर तहँ भिन्न बनावा।।

दो.– रामायुध अंकित गृह सोभा बरनि न जाई।

नव तुलसिका बृंद तहँ देखि हरष कपिराइ।।५।।

लंका निसिचर निकर निवासा। इहाँ कहाँ सज्जन कर बासा।।

मन महुँ तरक करैं कपि लागा। तेहीं समय बिभीषनु जागा।।

राम राम तेहिं सुमिरन कीन्हा। हृदयँ हरष कपि सज्जन चीन्हा।।

एहि सन हठि करिहउँ पहिचानी। साधु ते होई न कारज हानी।।

बिप्र रूप धरि बचन सुनाए। सुनत बिभीषन उठि तहँ आए।।

करि प्रनाम पूँछी कुसलाई। बिप्र कहहु निज कथा बुझाई।।

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D

Lankini continued, "All the joys of paradise and *moksha*[9] may be kept on one side of the balance, but the happiness of a noble company will tip the scales. 4
C

"Please enshrine the king of Ayodhya in your heart. Make your way into the city. Do all your work." Kakbhushundi[10] said to Garuda[11], "When Ram shows mercy, venom becomes nectar, enemies perform friendly acts, the sea is reduced to the size of a cow's hoof and the fire cools down. *Sumeru* mountain becomes light as a grain of sand." Hanuman changed into a small size, and entered the city, cherishing Ram again. 1&2

He searched all the mansions. He saw innumerable warriors at different places. He entered Ravana's palace. It was amazing beyond words. 3

Hanuman saw Ravana sleeping. But there was no trace of Sita in the palace. Hanuman then noticed a fascinating mansion. A temple of Ram was built there separately. 4
D

The building bore pictures of Ram's weapons, and was magnificent. The monkeys' chief was delighted at the view of the holy plants of *Tulsi*[12] in profusion. 5
C

Hanuman wondered, Lanka being a habitat of demons, how could there be a house of a noble man here? Presently, Vibhishana awoke. 1

He chanted, 'Ram... Ram'. Hanuman was glad to regard him as a pious man. Hanuman resolved, "I shall strive to make his acquaintance. There is no risk of any obstacle from a virtuous man." 2

Hanuman uttered some words in the garb of a *brahmin*.[13] Vibhishana got up, and came there. He greeted Hanuman, and enquired after his welfare. He asked, "Brahmin, please let me know about yourself. 3

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की तुम्ह हरि दासन्ह महँ कोई। मोरें हृदय प्रीति अति होई।।

की तुम्ह रामु दीन अनुरागी। आयहु मोहि करन बड़भागी।।

दो.– तब हनुमंत कही सब राम कथा निज नाम।

सुनत जुगल तन पुलक मन मगन सुमिरि गुन ग्राम।।६।।

सुनहु पवनसुत रहनि हमारी। जिमि दसनन्हि महुँ जीभ बिचारी।।

तात कबहुँ मोहि जानि अनाथा। करिहहिं कृपा भानुकुल नाथा।।

तामस तनु कछु साधन नाहीं। प्रीति न पद सरोज मन माहीं।।

अब मोहि भा भरोस हनुमंता। बिनु हरिकृपा मिलहिं नहिं संता।।

जौं रघुबीर अनुग्रह कीन्हा। तौ तुम्ह मोहि दरसु हठि दीन्हा।।

सुनहु बिभीषन प्रभु कै रीती। करहिं सदा सेवक पर प्रीती।।

कहहु कवन मैं परम कुलीना। कपि चंचल सबहीं बिधि हीना।।

प्रात लेइ जो नाम हमारा। तेहि दिन ताहि न मिलै अहारा।।

दो.– अस मैं अधम सखा सुनु मोहू पर रघुबीर।

कीन्ही कृपा सुमिरि गुन भरे बिलोचन नीर।।७।।

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"Are you one of the devotees of Ram? My heart is overwhelmed with affection for you. Or are you Ram himself who loves the meek, and has come to ameliorate my destiny?" 4
D

Hanuman told the whole story of Ram, and disclosed his identity. Both Hanuman and Vibhishana were thrilled to remember Ram. They were overjoyed to recall his virtues. 6
C

Vibhishana said to Hanuman, "I live like a poor tongue between the teeth. Will Ram, lord of the Sun's dynasty show me mercy realising that I have no protector? 1

"My body is afflicted with the vicious and dark qualities of *tamas.*[14] There is no recourse for me. I lack love for the lotus feet of Ram. But, Hanuman, now I am assured that without Ram's kindness one does not meet saints. 2

"You have been propelled to appear before me due to his kindness." Hanuman replied, "Listen, Vibhishana, it is Ram's trait to be kind to those who are engaged in his service. 3

"Tell me, am I a descendent of any superior lineage? I am a skittish monkey, lowly in all manner. Anyone who utters our name in the morning, will not get a repast that day. 4
D

"Friend, I am such a base fellow, yet Ram has been kind to me." Hanuman's eyes welled up with tears remembering Ram's virtues. 7

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जानतहूँ अस स्वामि बिसारी। फिरहिं ते काहे न होहिं दुखारी।।

एहि बिधि कहत राम गुन ग्रामा। पावा अनिर्बाच्य बिश्रामा।।

पुनि सब कथा बिभीषन कही।जेहि बिधि जनकसुता तहँ रही।।

तब हनुमंत कहा सुनु भ्राता। देखी चहउँ जानकी माता।।

जुगुति बिभीषन सकल सुनाई। चलेउ पवनसुत बिदा कराई।।

करि सोइ रूप गयउ पुनि तहवाँ। बनअसोक सीता रह जहवाँ।।

देखि मनहि महुँ कीन्ह प्रनामा। बैठेहिं बीति जात निसि जामा।।

कृस तनु सीस जटा एक बेनी। जपति हृदयँ रघुपति गुन श्रेनी।।

दो.– निज पद नयन दिएँ मन राम पद कमल लीन।

परम दुखी भा पवनसुत देखि जानकी दीन।।८।।

तरु पल्लव महुँ रहा लुकाई। करइ बिचार करौं का भाई।।

तेहि अवसर रावनु तहँ आवा। संग नारि बहु किएँ बनावा।।

बहु बिधि खल सीतहि समुझावा। साम दान भय भेद देखावा।।

कह रावनु सुनु सुमुखि सयानी। मंदोदरी आदि सब रानी।।

तव अनुचरीं करउँ पन मोरा। एक बार बिलोकु मम ओरा।।

तृन धरि ओट कहति बैदेही। सुमिरि अवधपति परम सनेही।।

सुनु दसमुख खद्योत प्रकासा। कबहुँ कि नलिनी करइबिकासा।।

असमनसमुझु कहतिजानकी। खलसुधि नहिं रघुबीर बान की।।

सठ सूनें हरि आनेहि मोही। अधम निलज्ज लाज नहिं तोही।।

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C

Hanuman continued, "Those who are aware of the merciful disposition of Ram, yet forget such a master, and wander elsewhere: why will they not come to grief?" He was ineffably relaxed after describing the virtues of Ram. 1

Then Vibhishana gave a complete account of the conditions in which Sita lived there. Hanuman said, "Brother, I wish to see Mother Sita." 2

Vibhishana elucidated all contrivances to reach Sita. Then Hanuman took leave. He adopted the form of a mosquito, and reached the forest of *ashoka* trees where Sita dwelt. 3

Hanuman saw Sita, and made an obeisance in his mind. Sita sat awake. The night passed. Her constitution was emaciated. Her tresses were matted in a single braid. She chanted with all her heart a range of Ram's attributes. 4

D

Sita had fixed her gaze upon her own feet. Her mind concentrated upon the lotus feet of Ram. Hanuman was sad to see the indignity meted out to Sita. 8

C

He hid behind the foliage, and pondered on the next course of action. Presently, Ravana arrived accompanied by pompously attired women. 1

The villain tried to cajole Sita through the four
common expedients: *sama*-negotiation, *dana*-bribery, 2
bhed-sowing dissension and *bhaya*-assault. Ravana &
addressed Sita, "Pretty-faced and prudent lady, I shall 3
put Mandodari and all my other consorts in your retinue. &
It is my pledge. Just look at me once." Sita remem- 4
bered her beloved Ram, took cover of a straw, and &
spoke, "Ravana, listen, will the light of a glow-worm 5
ever cause a lotus to bloom? You bear this in mind." Sita continued, "Knave, you are not aware of the force of Ram's arrow. Rogue, you carried me off in the wilderness. Impudent scoundrel, have you no shame left?"

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दो.– आपुहि सुनि खद्योत सम रामहि भानु समान।

परुष बचन सुनि काढ़ि असि बोला अति खिसिआन।।९।।

सीता तैं मम कृत अपमाना। कटिहउँ तव सिर कठिन कृपाना।।

नाहिं त सपदि मानु मम बानी। सुमुखि होति न त जीवन हानी।।

स्याम सरोज दाम सम सुंदर। प्रभु भुज करि कर सम दसकंधर।।

सो भुज कंठ कि तव असि घोरा। सुनु सठ अस प्रवान पन मोरा।।

चंद्रहास हरु मम परितापं। रघुपति बिरह अनल संजातं।।

सीतल निसित बहसि बर धारा। कह सीता हरु मम दुख भारा।।

सुनत बचन पुनि मारन धावा। मयतनयाँ कहि नीति बुझावा।।

कहेसि सकल निसिचरिन्ह बोलाई। सीतहि बहु बिधि त्रासहु जाई।।

मास दिवस महुँ कहा न माना। तौ मैं मारबि काढ़ि कृपाना।।

दो.– भवन गयउ दसकंधर इहाँ पिसाचिनि– बृंद।

सीतहि त्रास देखावहिं धरहिं रूप बहु मंद।।१०।।

त्रिजटा नाम राच्छसी एका। राम चरन रति निपुन बिबेका।।

सबन्हौ बोलि सुनाएसि सपना। सीतहि सेइ करहु हित अपना।।

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D9 & C1

Ravana heard the piercing words of Sita comparing him with a glow-worm and Ram with the Sun. He unsheathed his sword, and spoke with wounded pride, "Sita you have disgraced me. I shall behead you with my cruel sword. Pretty-face, you shall lose your life. Or else you accede to my proposal at once."

Sita replied, "Ram's arms are as elegant as garands of blue lotuses, and are strong like a trunk of an elephant. Only those arms or your sword shall touch
my neck. Listen you cheat, such is my testimony." 2

Then Sita directed her speech to Ravana's sword named, Chandrahasa[15], "The fire of separation from Ram is causing an unbearable heat. Chandrahasa, you shed a cold, sharp and bright stream. Release me
from this agony." 3

Ravana rushed to attack Sita. But Mandodari disuaded him. She explained the right course of conduct. Ravana called female demons, and told them
to frighten Sita through various devices. 4

He added, "If she does not concede within a
month, I shall slay her with my scimitar." 5

Ravana returned to the palace. Groups of female D
demons began terrifying Sita. They appeared before 10
her in hideous forms and shapes.

There was a female demon named, Trijata. She C
worshipped the feet of Ram, and could discriminate beween right and wrong. She called others, and narrated her dream. She advised them, "Be of service
to Sita and do good unto yourselves." 1

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सपनें बानर लंका जारी। जातुधान सेना सब मारी।।
खर आरूढ़ नगन दससीसा। मुंडित सिर खंडित भुज बीसा।।
एहि बिधि सो दच्छिन दिसि जाई। लंका मनहुँ बिभीषन पाई।।
नगर फिरि रघुबीर दोहाई। तब प्रभु सीता बोलि पठाई।।
यह सपना मैं कहउँ पुकारी। होइहि सत्य गएँ दिन चारी।।
तासु बचन सुनि ते सब डरीं। जनकसुता के चरनन्हि परीं।।
दो.—जहँ तहँ गईं सकल तब सीता कर मन सोच।
मास दिवस बीतें मोहि मारिहि निसिचर पोच।।११।।
त्रिजटा सन बोलीं कर जोरी। मातु बिपति संगिनि तैं मोरी।।
तजौं देह करु बेगि उपाई। दुसह बिरहु अब नहिं सहि जाई।।
आनि काठ रचु चिता बनाई। मातु अनल पुनि देहि लगाई।।
सत्य करहि मम प्रीति सयानी। सुनै को श्रवन सूल सम बानी।।
सुनत बचन पद गहि समुझाएसि। प्रभु प्रताप बल सुजसु सुनाएसि।।
निसि न अनल मिल सुनु सुकुमारी। अस कहि सो निज भवन सिधारी।।
कह सीता बिधि भा प्रतिकूला। मिलिहि न पावक मिटिहि न सूला।।
देखिअत प्रगट गगन अंगारा। अवनि न आवत एकउ तारा।।
पावकमय ससि स्त्रवत न आगी। मानहुँ मोहि जानि हत भागी।।
सुनहि बिनय मम बिटप असोका। सत्य नाम करु हरु मम सोका।।
नूतन किसलय अनल समाना। देहि अगिनि जनि करहि निदाना।।
देखि परम बिरहाकुल सीता। सो छन कपिहि कलप सम बीता।।

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Trijata continued, "I dreamt that a monkey had set fire to Lanka. It destroyed the entire army of demons. The ten-headed Ravana was mounted on a donkey. He was without clothes. His heads were shaved. His twenty arms were severed. Ravana was going southwards in that pitiable condition. Presumably, Vibhishana
had acquired Lanka. There was proclamation of Ram's 2
victory throughout the city. Ram gave instructions for &
escorting Sita back. I declare loud and clear this dream 3
would come true in a few days." All of them panicked &
after hearing Trijata's words, and fell at the feet of Sita. 4
D

Then they dispersed. Sita kept musing that the
mean demon, Ravana, would kill her after one month. 11
Sita made a request to Trijata with joined hands, C
"Mother, you are my ally in this adversity. Please take measures quickly so that I may abandon my body. The arduous separation from Ram has become unbea-
rable. 1

"Please bring firewood, and make a cremation pyre. Mother, then torch it. You are a sensible person. Make true your affection for me. Who can listen to
Ravana's barb-like voice?" 2

Trijata held Sita's feet. She consoled Sita by describing Ram's dignity, bravery and fame. She said, "Listen, tender lass, at this time of the night fire would
not be available." She then left for her home. 3

Sita muttered, "Destiny has become inimical. Neither fire is available nor would the agony pass. Fire particles are visible in the sky. But not even one star is shooting down to earth. The moon is like an inferno. But it is not pouring down fire. It rejects me as an ill-fated woman. Listen, *ashoka*[16] tree, remove my sorrow,
and confirm your name as genuine. Your new foliage 4
is similar to fire. Give me fire. Do not defer my end &
and prolong the malady of separation" Hanuman witn- 5
essed Sita's dejection. That moment passed like an era &
for him. 6

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सो.– कपि करि हृदयँ बिचार दीन्हि मुद्रिका डारि तब।

जनु असोक अंगार दीन्ह हरषि उठि कर गहेउ।।१२।।

तब देखी मुद्रिका मनोहर। राम नाम अंकित अति सुंदर।।

चकित चितव मुदरी पहिचानी। हरष बिषाद हृदयँ अकुलानी।।

जीति को सकइ अजय रघुराई। माया तें असि रचि नहिं जाई।।

सीता मन बिचार कर नाना। मधुर बचन बोलेउ हनुमाना।।

रामचंद्र गुन बरनैं लागा। सुनतहिं सीता कर दुख भागा।।

लागीं सुनै श्रवन मन लाई। आदिहु तें सब कथा सुनाई।।

श्रवनामृत जेहिं कथा सुहाई। कही सो प्रगट होति किन भाई।।

तब हनुमंत निकट चलि गयऊ। फिरि बैठीं मन बिसमय भयऊ।।

राम दूत मैं मातु जानकी। सत्य सपथ करुनानिधान की।।

यह मुद्रिका मातु मैं आनी। दीन्हि राम तुम्ह कहँ सहिदानी।।

नर बानरहि संग कहु कैसें। कही कथा भइ संगति जैसें।।

दो.– कपि के बचन सप्रेम सुनि उपजा मन बिस्वास।

जाना मन क्रम बचन यह कृपासिंधु कर दास।।१३।।

हरिजन जानि प्रीति अति गाढ़ी। सजल नयन पुलकावलि बाढ़ी।।

बूड़त बिरह जलधि हनुमाना। भयहु तात मो कहुँ जलजाना।।

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So

Hanuman pondered, and then dropped Ram's ring. She sprang and grabbed the ring as if the *ashoka* tree had thrown a glowing ember. 12

C

She saw the alluring ring bearing a beautiful inscription of the name "Ram". She recognized the ring with trepidation. Her heart was confounded with delight and dejection. 1

'Ram is invincible. Who can conquer him? And it is not possible for *maya*[17] to forge such a ring.' Such thoughts crossed the mind of Sita. Presently, Hanuman spoke sweet words. 2

He extolled Ram's virtues. Sita's fear disappeared. She listened to Hanuman attentively. He recounted events from the beginning. 3

Sita said, "Brother, your words are sweet as nectar. Why don't you appear before me?" Hanuman came near her. Sita was astonished to see him. She averted her face, and sat down. 4

"Mother Janaki, I am a harbinger of Ram. I swear by Ram, the merciful, and speak the truth. I have brought the ring. Ram has sent it as a memento for you." 5

Sita enquired, "Tell me, how did this association between man and monkey occur?" Hanuman recapitulated how he met Ram and became his attendant. 6

D

Hanuman's affectionate words engendered confidence in her mind. She realized that he was a follower of Ram in thought, action and speech. 13

C

She became amiable when she came to know that he waited on Ram. She had tears of joy in her eyes. She said, "Hanuman, you have come like a boat for me. I was drowning in the sea of dejection. 1

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अब कहु कुसल जाउँ बलिहारी। अनुज सहित सुख भवन खरारी।।

कोमलचित कृपाल रघुराई। कपि केहि हेतु धरी निठुराई।।

सहज बानि सेवक सुख दायक। कबहुँक सुरति करत रघुनायक।।

कबहुँ नयन मम सीतल ताता। होइहहिं निरखि स्याम मृदु गाता।।

बचनु न आव नयन भरे बारी। अहह नाथ हौं निपट बिसारी।।

देखि परम बिरहाकुल सीता। बोला कपि मृदु बचन बिनीता।।

मातु कुसल प्रभु अनुज समेता। तव दुख दुखी सुकृपा निकेता।।

जनि जननी मानहु जियँ ऊना। तुम्ह ते प्रेमु राम कें दूना।।

दो.– रघुपति कर संदेसु अब सुनु जननी धरि धीर।

अस कहि कपि गदगद भयउ भरे बिलोचन नीर।।१४।।

कहेउ राम बियोग तब सीता। मो कहुँ सकल भए बिपरीता।।

न्व तरु किसलय मनहुँ कृसानू। काल निसा सम निसि ससि भानू।।

कुबलय बिपिन कुंत बन सरिसा। बारिद तपत तेल जनु बरिसा।।

जे हित रहे करत तेइ पीरा। उरग स्वास सम त्रिबिध समीरा।।

कहेहू तें कछु दुख घटि होई। काहि कहौं यह जान न कोई।।

तत्व प्रेम कर मम अरु तोरा। जानत प्रिया एकु मनु मोरा।।

सो मनु सदा रहत तोहि पाहीं। जानु प्रीति रसु एतनेहि माहीं।।

प्रभु संदेसु सुनत बैदेही। मगन प्रेम तन सुधि नहिं तेही।।

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"May all the evil omens for Ram befall me instead! Now state his welfare as well as that of his younger brother. Ram is tender-hearted and compassionate. But why has he adopted a severe attitude towards me? 2

"By nature he is disposed to providing happiness to his attendants. Does Ram remember me anytime? Will I ever feast my eyes on his swarthy complexion and delicate body?" 3

Sita became speechless. Her eyes filled with tears. She sighed, "Lord, you have dismissed me from memory." Hanuman found her perplexed with the feeling of desertion. He spoke with tenderness and humility. 4

"Master and his younger brother are in good health, but distraught with your grief. Mother, do not be despondent. Ram loves you twice as much as you do. 5
D

"Mother, now take courage and hear Ram's message..." Hanuman's voice choked from emotion. His eyes welled with tears. 14

Hanuman said, "Ram has conveyed, 'in your absence all things have become incompatible. New tree-leaves appear like fiery particles. Night passes like the night of destruction at the end of the world. The moon is hot as the sun. The wild growth of lotuses resemble a forest of spears. Clouds pour hot oil. Benefactors cause anguish. Cool, gentle and redolent breezes blow like exhalations of serpents. C 1 &2

'Expressing one's sorrow, gives some relief. But to whom can I convey this? No one else knows the secret quality of the love between you and me. It is known to my heart alone. And my heart dwells with you constantly. This is the essence of my love. Please be assured'. "Sita was overlwhelmed with joy to hear the message of Ram. She became oblivious of her own self. 3&4

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कह कपि हृदयँ धीर धरु माता। सुमिरु राम सेवक सुखदाता।।
उर आनहु रघुपति प्रभुताई। सुनि मम बचन तजहु कदराई।।

दो.– निसिचर निकर पतंग सम रघुपति बान कृसानु।
जननी हृदयँ धीर धरु जरे निसाचर जानु।।१५।।

जौं रघुबीर होति सुधि पाई। करते नहिं बिलंबु रघुराई।।
राम बान रबि उएँ जानकी। तम बरूथ कहँ जातुधान की।।
अबहिं मातु मैं जाउँ लवाई। प्रभु आयसु नहिं राम दोहाई।।
कछुक दिवस जननी धरु धीरा। कपिन्ह सहित अइहहिं रघुबीरा।।
निसिचर मारि तोहि लै जैहहिं। तिहुँ पुर नारदादि जसु गैहहिं।।
हैं सुत कपि सब तुम्हहि समाना। जातुधान अति भट बलवाना।।
मोरें हृदय परम संदेहा। सुनि कपि प्रगट कीन्हि निज देहा।।
कनक भूधराकार सरीरा। समर भयंकर अतिबल बीरा।।
सीता मन भरोस तब भयऊ। पुनि लघु रूप पवनसुत लयऊ।।

दो.– सुनु माता साखामृग नहिं बल बुद्धि बिसाल।
प्रभु प्रताप तें गरुड़हि खाइ परम लघु ब्याल।।१६।।

मन संतोष सुनत कपि बानी। भगति प्रताप तेज बल सानी।।
आसिष दीन्हि रामप्रिय जाना। होहु तात बल सील निधाना।।
अजर अमर गुननिधि सुत होहू। करहुँ बहुत रघुनायक छोहू।।
करहुँ कृपा प्रभु अस सुनि काना। निर्भर प्रेम मगन हनुमाना।।

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Hanuman continued, "Mother, be brave. Ram
provides happiness to his followers. Please remember
his greatness, and do not be timid. 5
D

"Demons are like moths. And the arrows of Ram
are like flames. Mother, please remain calm. The dem-
ons shall be incinerated. 15
C

"Ram would not have been late, had he received
any information about you. Where will be the darkn-
ess of the demon's army when the sun of Ram's arrow
rises? 1

"Mother, I can escort you back just now. But I do
not have Master's instructions. Please be composed
for a few days. Ram will come with troops of mon-
keys. 2

"They will take you back after killing the demons. 3
Narad and other sages will sing Ram's praises in the &
three worlds.[18]" Sita said, "Son, will all monkeys be 4
like you? Demons are powerful warriors. Uncertainty
pervades my heart. "Then Hanuman manifested his
innate body. It had the shape of a golden mountain. It &
was terrifying, strong and heroic for a battle. Sita felt 5
reassured. Hanuman reverted to a small size.

"Listen, Mother, animals who live on tree branches
have little strength or intelligence. But by the Master's &
power a small snake can swallow Garuda."
D 16
C

Sita's mind was set at rest to hear Hanuman's speech
which was filled with devotion, dignity, brilliance and
force. She was convinced that Hanuman was Ram's
favourite follower. She blessed him, "May you be a
repository of strength and morality. Son, may you be
ever young, immortal and a treasure of virtues. May
Ram be very kind to you."Hanuman was immersed in
absolute devotion as he heard the words, 'may Ram be
very kind to you.'
1 & 2

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बार बार नाएसि पद सीसा। बोला बचन जोरि कर कीसा।।

अब कृतकृत्य भयउँ मैं माता। आसिष तव अमोघ बिख्याता।।

सुनहु मातु मोहि अतिसय भूखा। लागि देखि सुंदर फल रूखा।।

सुनु सुत करहिं बिपिन रखवारी। परम सुभट रजनीचर भारी।।

तिन्ह कर भय माता मोहि नाहीं। जौं तुम्ह सुख मानहु मन माहीं।।

दो.– देखि बुद्धि बल निपुन कपि कहेउ जानकीं जाहु।

रघुपति चरन हृदयँ धरि तात मधुर फल खाहु।।१७।।

चलेउ नाइ सिरु पैठेउ बागा। फल खाएसि तरु तोरैं लागा।।

रहे तहाँ बहु भट रखवारे। कछु मारेसि कछु जाइ पुकारे।।

नाथ एक आवा कपि भारी। तेहिं असोक बाटिका उजारी।।

खाएसि फल अरु बिटप उपारे। रच्छक मर्दि मर्दि महि डारे।।

सुनि रावन पठए भट नाना। तिन्हहि देखि गर्जेउ हनुमाना।।

सब रजनीचर कपि संघारे। गए पुकारत कछु अधमारे।।

पुनि पठयउ तेहिं अच्छकुमारा। चला संग लै सुभट अपारा।।

आवत देखि बिटप गहि तर्जा। ताहि निपाति महाधुनि गर्जा।।

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Hanuman bowed his head at the feet of Sita several times. He joined his hands and spoke, "Mother, your blessings are renowned to be unfailing. I am filled with gratitude. 3

"Listen, Mother, I am feeling very hungry after seeing the trees laden with succulent fruits." Sita cautioned, "Son, robust and invincible demon warriors are guarding the forests." 4

"Mother, I do not fear them so long as you are happy." Hanuman replied. 5

Sita recognized Hanuman's sharp intelligence and strength. She told him to go and eat fruits remembering Ram all the while. D 17

Hanuman saluted Sita, and then entered the grove. He started eating fruits and breaking trees. There were many soldiers on the watch. Some he killed, and others fled to call for help. C 1

They complained to Ravana, "Sire, one stout monkey has arrived, and has devastated the *ashoka* grove. It has plucked fruits and uprooted trees. The monkey grappled with guards, crushed and threw them on the ground." 2

Ravana sent several brave soldiers. Hanuman saw them and bellowed. He killed them. Some who were half-dead, fled crying in anguish. 3

Then Ravana told his son, Akshayakumar to proceed. The son commandeered a large number of soldiers. Hanuman saw Akshayakumar. He grasped a tree and challenged Akshayakumar. Hanuman killed him, and gave forth a thunderous roar. 4

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दो.– कछु मारेसि कछु मर्देसि कछु मिलएसि धरि धूरि।

कछु पुनि जाइ पुकारे प्रभु मर्कट बल भूरि।।१८।।

सुनि सुत बध लंकेस रिसाना। पठएसि मेघनाद बलवाना।।

मारसि जनि सुत बाँधेसु ताही। देखिअ कपिहि कहाँ कर आही।।

चला इंद्रजित अतुलित जोधा। बंधु निधन सुनि उपजा क्रोधा।।

कपि देखा दारुन भट आवा। कटकटाइ गर्जा अरु धावा।।

अति बिसाल तरु एक उपारा। बिरथ कीन्ह लंकेस कुमारा।।

रहे महाभट ताके संगा। गहि गहि कपि मर्दइ निज अंगा।।

तिन्हहि निपाति ताहि सन बाजा। भिरे जुगल मानहुँ गजराजा।।

मुठिका मारि चढ़ा तरु जाई। ताहि एक छन मुरुछा आई।।

उठि बहोरि कीन्हिसि बहु माया। ज़ीति न जाइ प्रभंजन जाया।।

दो.– ब्रह्म अस्त्र तेहिं साँधा कपि मन कीन्ह बिचार।

जौं न ब्रह्मसर मानउँ महिमा मिटइ अपार।।१९।।

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D

Hanuman killed some soldiers. He grappled with a few. Some he crushed and mingled in the dust. A few soldiers ran away screaming, "Master, the monkey is very powerful." 18

C

Ravana became furious to learn about the killing of his son. He despatched brave Meghanada and told him, "Son, do not kill the monkey. Bind it. Let us see from where it has come?" 1

Meghanada was an incomparable warrior. He had defeated Indra, the chief of gods. Meghanada was enraged to learn about the death of his brother. Hanuman guessed that Meghanada was a severe combatant. Gnashing his teeth, and rumbling along, Hanuman charged against him. 2

Hanuman pulled up a tree, and struck it against Meghanada's chariot. The prince of Lanka was bereft of his chariot. Hanuman grappled with other warriors who were accompanying Meghanada. He rubbed them against his body with violent pressure. 3

After exterminating them, Hanuman wrestled with Meghanada. They looked like a pair of elephants engaged in a bout. Hanuman struck him a fist-blow, and then climbed up a tree. Meghanada fainted for a moment. 4

Meghanada got up, and then cast many illusions. But Hanuman could not be overpowered. 5

D

Meghanada aimed the *brahmastra*[19]. Hanuman pondered. The greatness of the *brahmastra* would be eclipsed if he did not concede to it. 19

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ब्रह्मबान कपि कहुँ तेहिं मारा। परतिहुँ बार कटकु संघारा।।

तेहिं देखा कपि मुरुछित भयऊ। नागपास बाँधेसि लै गयऊ।।

जासु नाम जपि सुनहु भवानी। भव बंधन काटहिं नर ग्यानी।।

तासु दूत कि बंध तरु आवा। प्रभु कारज लगि कपिहिं बँधावा।।

कपि बंधन सुनि निसिचर धाए। कौतुक लागि सभाँ सब आए।।

दसमुख सभा दीखि कपि जाई। कहि न जाइ कछु अति प्रभुताई।।

कर जोरें सुर दिसिप बिनीता। भृकुटि बिलोकत सकल सभीता।।

देखि प्रताप न कपि मन संका। जिमि अहिगन महुँ गरुड़ असंका।।

दो.– कपिहि बिलोकि दसानन बिहसा कहि दुर्बाद।

सुत बध सुरति कीन्हि पुनि उपजा हृदयँ बिषाद।।२०।।

कह लंकेस कवन तैं कीसा। केहि कें बल घालेहि बन खीसा।।

की धौं श्रवन सुनेहि नहिं मोही। देखउँ अति असंक सठ तोही।।

मारे निसिचर केहिं अपराधा। कहु सठ तोहि न प्रान कइ बाधा।।

सुनु रावन ब्रह्मांड निकाया। पाइ जासु बल बिरचति माया।।

जाकें बल बिरंचि हरि ईसा। पालत सृजत हरत दससीसा।।

जा बल सीस धरत सहसानन। अंडकोस समेत गिरि कानन।।

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C

Meghanada released the *brahmastra* at Hanuman. He fell down from the tree crushing the troops. Meghanada saw Hanuman in unconscious state, and carried him away tied in a noose of serpents. 1

Shiva addressed Uma, "By chanting Ram's name wise men sever worldly bonds. Can his messenger be held tied to a tree? It was for his master's purpose that Hanuman got himself ensnared." 2

The demons heard that Hanuman had been captured. They ran to enjoy the spectacle at the king's court. Hanuman saw the assembly. Ravana's plenitude was visible everywhere. 3

The gods and the protecting deities of the directions were in attendance. They stood with joined hands in obeisance. They watched every knitting of Ravana's eye-brows with trepidation. Hanuman was unafraid to view the show of might. He stayed like Garuda among snakes. 4

Ravana uttered slander, and laughed loudly when he saw Hanuman. Then he remembered the killing of his son, and became pensive. D20

"Monkey, who are you?" Ravana asked, "By means of whose force have you ravaged the forest? Have you not heard about me? Impudent monkey, you look fearless. C 1

"What crimes have the demons committed that you have killed them? Rogue, are you not afraid of losing your life?" Hanuman replied, "Ravana, listen, I am his mesenger from whom *maya*[20] draws energy to create the cosmos. 2

" I am his messenger by whose power Brahma[21], Vishnu[22] and Mahesh[23] create, preserve and destroy. From whom the Sheshnaga, the thousand headed serpent, receives strength to hold the universe with mountains and forests. 3

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धरइ जो बिबिध देह सुरत्राता। तुम्ह से सठन्ह सिखावनु दाता।।

हर कोदंड कठिन जेहिं भंजा। तेहि समेत नृप दल मद गंजा।।

खर दूषन त्रिसिरा अरु बाली। बधे सकल अतुलित बलसाली।।

दो.– जाके बल लवलेस तें जितेहु चराचर झारि।

तासु दूत मैं जा करि हरि आनेहु प्रिय नारि।।२१।।

जानउँ मैं तुम्हारि प्रभुताई। सहसबाहु सन परी लराई।।

समरबालि सन करि जसु पावा।सुनि कपि बचन बिहसि बिहरावा।।

खायउँ फल प्रभु लागी भूँखा। कपि सुभाव तें तोरेउँ रूखा।।

सब कें देह परम प्रिय स्वामी। मारहिं मोहि कुमारग गामी।।

जिन्ह मोहि मारा ते मैं मारे। तेहि पर बाँधेउँ तनयँ तुम्हारे।।

मोहि न कछु बाँधे कइ लाजा। कीन्ह चहउँ निज प्रभु कर काजा।।

बिनती करउँ जोरि कर रावन। सुनहु मान तजि मोर सिखावन।।

देखहु तुम्ह निज कुलहि बिचारी। भ्रम तजि भजहु भगत भय हारी।।

जाकें डर अति काल डेराई। जो सुर असुर चराचर खाई।।

तासों बयरु कबहुँ नहिं कीजै। मोरे कहें जानकी दीजै।।

दो.– प्रनतपाल रघुनायक करुना सिंधु खरारि।

गएँ सरन प्रभु राखिहैं तव अपराध बिसारि।।२२।।

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"He takes birth in various forms for the deliverance of gods, and teaches a lesson to rogues like you. He broke the strong bow of Shiva, and humbled the vanity of several kings including yours. He killed Khar[24], Dushan[25], Trishira[26] and Bali[27] who were peerless warriors. 4&5

"You have acquired a fragment of his strength. Yet you trounced the world. You carried away his wife by stealth. I am his messenger. D 21

C

"I am aware of your dignity. There was a battle between you and Sahasrabahu[28]. You earned renown for your combat with Bali. "These were cutting remarks. Yet, Ravana laughed them off evasively. 1

Hanuman resumed, "I felt hungry. So I ate fruits. By monkey's impulse I broke trees. Everyone is fond of his body. Misled fellows started beating me. I thrashed those who struck me. Nevertheless, your son has brought me as a captive. I am not ashamed to have been fettered. I am doing my Master's work. 2&3

"Ravana, I implore with joined hands. Listen to my advice. Shun your self-conceit. Take a look at your ancestry. Get rid of perplexity. Worship him who saves his devotees from fear." 4

Hanuman continued, "Time, the destroyer, annihilates gods, demons and the world. Nevertheless, it is in awe of Ram. Accept my advice and release Sita. 5

"Ram is the guardian of the meek and an ocean of mercy. Seek his refuge. He shall harbour you condoning your crimes. D 22

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राम चरन पंकज उर धरहू। लंका अचल राजु तुम्ह करहू।।

रिषि पुलस्ति जसु बिमल मयंका। तेहि ससि महुँ जनि होहु कलंका।।

राम नाम बिनु गिरा न सोहा। देखु बिचारि त्यागि मद मोहा।।

बसन हीन नहिं सोह सुरारी। सब भूषन भूषित बर नारी।।

राम बिमुख संपति प्रभुताई। जाइ रही पाई बिनु पाई।।

सजल मूल जिन्ह सरितन्ह नाहीं। बरषि गएँ पुनि तबहिं सुखाहीं।।

सुनु दसकंठ कहउँ पन रोपी। बिमुख राम त्राता नहिं कोपी।।

संकर सहस बिष्नु अज तोही। सकहिं न राखि राम कर द्रोही।।

दो.– मोहमूल बहु सूल प्रद त्यागहु तम अभिमान।

भजहु राम रघुनायक कृपा सिंधु भगवान।।२३।।

जदपि कही कपिअति हित बानी। भगति बिबेक बिरति नय सानी।।

बोला बिहसि महा अभिमानी। मिला हमहि कपि गुर बड़ ग्यानी।।

मृत्यु निकट आई खल तोही। लागेसि अधम सिखावन मोही।।

उलटा होइहि कह हनुमाना। मतिभ्रम तोर प्रगट मैं जाना।।

सुनि कपि बचन बहुत खिसिआना। बेगि न हरहु मूढ़ कर प्राना।।

सुनत निसाचर मारन धाए। सचिवन्ह सहि बिभाषनु आए।।

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"Adore the lotus feet of Ram, and rule over Lanka steadfast. The prestige of Sage Pulastya[29] is as immaculate as the moon. Do not be a dark spot on that moon. C 1

"There is no merit in the voice without the chant of Ram. Ponder over it. Give up your arrogance and infatuation. A lovely woman adorned with ornaments looks disgraceful without clothes. Gain of prosperity and prestige is as good as losing them, if one is averse to Ram. Rivers which have no permanent source of water, dry up after the rainy season is over. 2&3

"Ravana, hear me, I speak firmly. No one can protect Ram's adversary. Thousands of Shankars[30], Vishnus and Brahmas cannot harbour an offender against Ram. 4

"Your self-conceit obscures your vision. Its root cause is infatuation. It will give you immense pain. Shun it, and adore Ram. He is hero from the house of Raghu and an ocean of kindness." D 23

Hanuman's benign discourse was well intentioned. It spoke of devotion, discretion, detachment and prudence. However, Ravana giggled and said, "I have found a wise *guru* in the body of a monkey. Rascal, you want to counsel me. Death is close to you." Hanuman retorted, "The reverse is going to happen. You are under delusion, I know it." C 1&2

Hanuman's slight piqued Ravana. He spoke sharply, "Why not kill this fool quickly?"Demons rushed to attack Hanuman. Presently, Vibhishana accompanied by associates arrived. 3

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नाइ सीस करि बिनय बहूता। नीति बिरोध न मारिअ दूता।।

आन दंड कछु करिअ गोसाँई। सबहीं कहा मंत्र भल भाई।।

सुनत बिहसि बोला दसकंधर। अंग भंग करि पठइअ बंदर।।

दो.– कपि के ममता पूँछ पर सबहि कहउँ समुझाइ।

तेल बोरि पट बाँधि पुनि पावक देहु लगाइ।।२४।।

पूँछहीन बानर तहँ जाइहि। तब सठ निज नाथहि लइ आइहि।।

जिन्ह कै कीन्हिसि बहुत बड़ाई। देखउँ मैं तिन्ह कै प्रभुताई।।

बचन सुनत कपि मन मुसुकाना। भइ सहाय सारद मैं जाना।।

जातुधान सुनि रावन बचना। लागे रचैं मूढ़ सोइ रचना।।

रहा न नगर बसन घृत तेला। बाढ़ी पूँछ कीन्ह कपि खेला।।

कौतुक कहँ आए पुरबासी। मारहिं चरन करहिं बहु हाँसी।।

बाजहिं ढोल देहिं सब तारी। नगर फेरि पुनि पूँछ प्रजारी।।

पावक जरत देखि हनुमंता। भयउ परम लघुरूप तुरंता।।

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Vibhishana saluted Ravana and spoke in humility, "Master, it is unethical to execute an emissary. Please grant him some other punishment." All concurred and said to Ravana, "Brother, this is a proper advice." 4

Ravana bantered, "All right, then send this monkey away after mutilating its limbs. All of you should understand that monkeys are fond of their tails. Soak rags in oil, and wrap them around the tail of this 5&
monkey. Then set fire to it. D 24

"When the monkey will return without its tail, then the knave will bring its master. Let me see his supreme powers whose praises it has sung profusely." C1

Hanuman concealed his mirth. He felt Saraswati[31] had come to his aid. Foolish demons started making arrangements according to Ravana's instructions. No garments, *ghee* or oil were left in the city. Hanuman extended his tail. Citizens came to see the fun and frolic. They kicked Hanuman and mocked at him. Drums were sounded. Everyone clapped. Hanuman was paraded through the city. Then his tail was set on fire. When Hanuman saw the blaze, he shrunk his body.
2&3&4

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निबुकि चढ़ेउ कपि कनक अटारी। भईं सभीत निसाचर नारीं।।

दो.– हरि प्रेरित तेहि अवसर चले मरुत उनचास।

अट्टहास करि गर्जा कपि बढ़ि लाग अकास।।२५।।

देह बिसाल परम हरुआई। मंदिर तें मंदिर चढ़ धाई।।

जरइ नगर भा लोग बिहाला। झपट लपट बहु कोटि कराला।।

तात मातु हा सुनिअ पुकारा। एहिं अवसर को हमहि उबारा।।

हम जो कहा यह कपि नहि होई। बानर रूप धरें सुर कोई।।

साधु अवग्या कर फलु ऐसा। जरइ नगर अनाथ कर जैसा।।

जारा नगरु निमिष एक माहीं। एक बिभीषन कर गृह नाहीं।।

ता कर दूत अनल जेहिं सिरिजा। जरा न सो तेहि कारन गिरिजा।।

उलटि पलटि लंका सब जारी। कूदि परा पुनि सिंधु मझारी।।

दो.– पूँछ बुझाइ खोइ श्रम धरि लघु रूप बहोरि।

जनकसुता कें आगें ठाढ़ भयउ कर जोरि।।२६।।

मातु मोहि दीजे कछु चीन्हा। जैसें रघुनायक मोहि दीन्हा।।

चूड़ामनि उतारि तब दयऊ। हरष समेत पवनसुत लयऊ।।

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Hanuman extracted himself out of bonds, and climbed upon golden attics. Female demons became frightened. 5

D

Due to divine motivation 49 wind-gods were in motion at that time. Hanuman gave forth peals of laughter, and thundered. He stretched his body upto the sky. 25

C

Hanuman's body became enormous, but it was very light. He swiftly leaped from one building to another. The city burst into flames. People were in turmoil. Crores of perilous flames swayed and swooped. 1

'Ah father... Ah mother ... who will rescue us this time... I said that it was not a monkey, but a god disguised as a monkey.' Such cries were heard everywhere. 2

The consequence of humiliating a gentle person was such that the city was ablaze as if it was without a sovereign. Hanuman burnt the city in a twinkle sparing Vibhishana's house. 3

Shiva said, "Girija[32], Hanuman was an emissary of the Creator of Fire. So he himself was not burnt." Hanuman set Lanka alight upside down. Then he plunged into the sea. 4

D

He extinguished the fire of the tail. He recovered from fatigue, and contracted his size again. He stood before Sita with joined hands. 26

C

Hanuman said, "Mother, please give me some memento like Ram gave me for you." She removed the jewel worn at the top of her head, and gave it to Hanuman. Hanuman took it gladly. 1

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कहेहु तात अस मोर प्रनामा। सब प्रकार प्रभु पूरनकामा।।
दीन दयाल बिरिदु संभारी। हरहु नाथ मम संकट भारी।।
तात सक्रसुत कथा सुनाएहु। बान प्रताप प्रभुहि समुझाएहु।।
मास दिवस महुँ नाथु न आवा। तौ पुनि मोहि जिअत नहिं पावा।।
कहु कपि केहि बिधि राखौं प्राना। तुम्हहू तात कहत अब जाना।।
तोहि देखि सीतलि भइ छाती। पुनि मो कहुँ सोइ दिनु सो राती।।

दो.– जनकसुतहि समुझाइ करि बहु बिधि धीरजु दीन्ह।
चरन कमल सिरु नाइ कपि गवनु राम पहिं कीन्ह।।२७।।

चलत महाधुनि गर्जेसि भारी। गर्भ स्त्रवहिं सुनि निसिचर नारी।।
नाघि सिंधु एहि पारहि आवा। सबद किलिकिला कपिन्ह सुनावा।।
हरषे सब बिलोकि हनुमाना। नूतन जन्म कपिन्ह तब जाना।।
मुख प्रसन्न तन तेज बिराजा। कीन्हेसि रामचन्द्र कर काजा।।
मिले सकल अति भए सुखारी। तलफत मीन पाव जिमि बारी।।
चले हरषि रघुनायक पासा। पूँछत कहत नवल इतिहासा।।
तब मधुबन भीतर सब आए। अंगद समंत मधु फल खाए।।
रखवारे जब बरजन लागे। मुष्टि प्रहार हनत सब भागे।।

दो.– जाइ –पुकारे ते सब बन उजार जुबराज।
सुनि सुग्रीव हरषिं कपि करि आए प्रभु काज।।२८।।

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Sita said, "Son, please convey my salutation to Ram thus, 'Lord, you are fully contented in all manner. Yet, please recall your lauded compassion for the miserable. Rescue me from this crisis.' 2

"Son, please narrate the story of Indra's son[33], and remind the Master about the power of his arrow. If he does not come here within a month, he shall not find me alive. 3

"Hanuman, please tell me how to save my life? You say you are also leaving. After meeting you my heart became serene. But again I shall have to pass similar days and nights." 4

Hanuman consoled Sita to maintain her fortitude. He bowed his head at her lotus feet, and proceeded to meet Ram. D 27

C

At the start, Hanuman bellowed a loud report. Wives of demons had miscarriages when they heard it. He crossed the ocean, and reached the shore. He sounded joyful chatter for the monkeys. 1

They were delighted to see Hanuman. It was like a new birth for them. His countenance was ecstatic, and his body was effulgent. He had fulfilled the mission of Ram. 2

All of them were as gratified to meet Hanuman as if parched fishes got water. They left to meet Ram. On the way, they discussed about fresh developments. 3

The monkeys entered an orchard, Madhubana, and ate succulent fruits with the consent of Angada. When guards objected, they struck them with fists. The guards took to their heels. 4

D

They cried, "Prince Angada has destroyed the grove." Sugriva was delighted to hear that monkeys were back after performing the Master's assignment. 28

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जौं न होति सीता सुधि पाई। मधुबन के फल सकहिं कि खाई।।

एहि बिधि मन बिचार कर राजा। आइ गए कपि सहित समाजा।।

आइ सबन्हि नावा पद सीसा। मिलेउ सबन्हि अति प्रेम कपीसा।।

पूँछी कुसल कुसल पद देखी। राम कृपाँ भा काजु बिसेषी।।

नाथ काजु कीन्हेउ हनुमाना। राखे सकल कपिन्ह के प्राना।।

सुनि सुग्रीव बहुरि तेहि मिलेऊ। कपिन्ह सहित रघुपति पहिं चलेऊ।।

राम कपिन्ह जब आवत देखा। किएँ काजु मन हरष बिसेषा।।

फटिक सिला बैठे द्वौ भाई। परे सकल कपि चरनन्हि जाई।।

दो.– प्रीति सहित सब भेटे रघुपति करुना पुंज।

पूँछी कुसल नाथ अब कुसल देखि पद कंज।।२९।।

जामवंत कह सुनु रघुराया। जा पर नाथ करहु तुम्ह दाया।।

ताहि सदा सुभ कुसल निरंतर। सुर नर मुनि प्रसन्न ता ऊपर।।

सोइ बिजई बिनई गुन सागर। तासु सुजसु त्रैलोक उजागर।।

प्रभु कीं कृपा भयउ सबु काजू। जन्म हमार सुफल भा आजू।।

नाथ पवनसुत कीन्हि जो करनी। सहसहुँ मुख न जाइ सो बरनी।।

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Sugriva thought, "How could the monkeys eat fruits of Madhubana without getting the news of Sita?" As the chief was musing, the contingent of monkeys arrived. C1

All of them saluted Sugriva. The Chief received them with great fondness. He enquired about their welfare. They replied, "All is well at sight of your feet. By the grace of Ram excellent success has been achieved. 2

"Master, Hanuman has done the work, and has saved our lives." Sugriva embraced Hanuman cordially. Then he took along all the monkeys to meet Ram. 3

Ram was delighted to see the monkeys approaching him after fulfilling the task. Both the brothers sat on a crystal stone. All the monkeys came, and touched their feet. 4

Ram who is treasure of kindness, embraced all with affection, and enquired about their well-being. They answered, "Lord, all is well at sight of your feet."

D 29

Jambavanta said to Ram, "Master, one is always happy and fortunate when you are kind to him. Gods, men and *sadhus* all are pleased with him. C 1

"He becomes victorious, humble and an ocean of virtues. His fame spreads in the three worlds. By your grace the whole task has been fulfilled. Our birth has borne fruit today. 2

"Lord, the feat performed by Hanuman cannot be described even with a thousand mouths." Jambavanta narrated the noble deeds of Hanuman to Ram. 3

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पवनतनय के चरित सुहाए। जामवंत रघुपतिहि सुनाए।।

सुनत कृपानिधि मन अति भाए। पुनि हनुमान हरषि हियँ लाए।।

कहहु तात केहि भाँति जानकी। रहति करति रच्छा स्वप्रान की।।

दो.– नाम पाहरू दिवस निसि ध्यान तुम्हार कपाट।

लोचन निज पद जंत्रित जाहिं प्रान केहिं बाट।।३०।।

चलत मोहि चूड़ामनि दीन्ही। रघुपति हृदयँ लाइ सोइ लीन्ही।।

नाथ जुगल लोचन भरि बारी। बचन कहे कछु जनककुमारी।।

अनुज समेत गहेहु प्रभु चरना। दीन बंधु प्रनतारति हरना।।

मन क्रम बचन चरन अनुरागी। केहिं अपराध नाथ हौं त्यागी।।

अवगुन एक मोर मैं माना। बिछुरत प्रान न कीन्ह पयाना।।

नाथ सो नयनन्हि को अपराधा। निसरत प्रान करहिं हठि बाधा।।

बिरह अगिनि तनु तूल समीरा। स्वास जरइ छन माहिं सरीरा।।

नयन स्त्रवहिं जलु निज हित लागी। जरैं न पाव देह बिरहागी।।

सीता कै अति बिपति बिसाला। बिनहिं कहें भलि दीनदयाला।।

दो.– निमिष निमिष करुनानिधि जाहिं कलप सम बीति।

बेगि चलिअ प्रभु आनिअ भुज बल खल दल जीति।।३१।।

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Ram was very pleased to hear the same, and he embraced Hanuman again. Ram enquired, "How does Sita protect her life?" 4

Hanuman replied, "Your name is the gate-keeper, day and night. Meditation on you is like a door, and her eyes are focussed on her feet which locks the door. Through which way, then, can life exit?

D 30

"As I was leaving, she gave me an ornament worn on the head." Ram held it close to his chest. Hanuman continued, "Master, Sita's eyes were full of tears when she spoke a few words. C1

"Please hold the feet of Ram along with those of his younger brother, and say on my behalf, 'You are a saviour of the humble. You relieve distress of obeisant. I am deeply attached to you in mind, action and speech. What is my guilt that you have deserted me? 2

'I do accept one demerit of mine that my soul did not leave the body as soon as I was separated from you. But it is a fault of my eyes. They tenaciously obstruct the egress of my life. 3

'Disunion from you is like fire, my body is cotton and my breath fans the fire. So my body can be consumed in a moment. But my eyes shed tears in their
own interest. They do not let the fire of separation burn 4
the body.' Oh, protector of the meek, the calamity of &
Sita is colossal. It is better to let it remain unsaid. 5

"Each moment of hers passes like an era. Let us leave fast to fetch her after defeating the wicked demons by force of your arms." D 31

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सुनि सीता दुख प्रभु सुख अयना। भरि आए जल राजिव नयना।।

बचन कायँ मन मम गति जाही। सपनेहुँ बूझिअ बिपति कि ताही।।

कह हनुमंत बिपति प्रभु सोई। जब तव सुमिरन भजन न होई।।

केतिक बात प्रभु जातुधान की। रिपुहि जीति आनिबी जानकी।।

सुनु कपि तोहि समान उपकारी। नहिं कोउ सुर नर मुनि तनुधारी।।

प्रति उपकार करौं का तोरा। सनमुख होइ न सकत मन मोरा।।

सुनु सुत तोहि उरिन मैं नाहीं। देखेउँ करि बिचार मन माहीं।।

पुनि पुनि कपिहि चितव सुरत्राता। लोचन नीर पुलक अति गाता।।

दो.– सुनि प्रभु बचन बिलोकि मुख गात हरषि हनुमंत।

चरन परेउ प्रेमाकुल त्राहि त्राहि भगवंत।।३२।।

बार बार प्रभु चहइ उठावा। प्रेम मगन तेहि उठब न भावा।।

प्रभु कर पंकज कपि कें सीसा। सुमिरि सो दसा मगन गौरीसा।।

सावधान मन करि पुनि संकर। लागे कहन कथा अति सुंदर।।

कपि उठाइ प्रभु हृदयँ लगावा। कर गहि परम निकट बैठावा।।

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Ram heard about Sita's distress. His eyes welled up with tears. He said, "Those who attain my asylum in thought, action and speech, need they worry about adversity even in dreams?" C 1

Hanuman said, "Master, adversity is that when there is no chanting of your name and no devotional songs are sung. What is the standing of demons? You will defeat the enemy and bring back Sita." 2

Ram said, "Hanuman, there is no benefactor equal to you among gods, men, ascetics and corporeal beings. What favour should I do unto you to requite your obligation? The heart is shy of facing you. 3

"Listen, son, I am not released from your debt. I have pondered over it." He looked at Hanuman with tearful eyes, and his body quivered. 4

Hanuman was in raptures to hear Ram's words and view his face and body. Hanuman fell at the feet of Ram crying, "Lord, grant me your shelter... grant me your shelter." D 32

Ram tried more than once to raise Hanuman. But he was so absorbed in the love of Ram, that he would not stand. Ram caressed the head of Hanuman with his hands. Shiva became ecstatic to recall the scene. C 1

After a pause, Shiva controlled his mind, and continued with narration of the story. Ram raised Hanuman, and embraced him. 2

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कहु कपि रावन पालित लंका। केहि बिधि दहेउ दुर्ग अति बंका।।

प्रभु प्रसन्न जाना हनुमाना। बोला बचन बिगत अभिमाना।।

साखामृग कै बड़ि मनुसाई। साखा तें साखा पर जाई।।

नाघि सिंधु हाटकपुर जारा। निसिचर गन बधि बिपिन उजारा।।

सो सब तव प्रताप रघुराई। नाथ न कछू मोरि प्रभुताई।।

दो.–ता कहुँ प्रभु कछु अगम नहिं जा पर तुम्ह अनुकूल।

तव प्रभावँ बड़वानलहि जारि सकइ खलु तूल।।३३।।

नाथ भगति अति सुखदायनी। देहु कृपा करि अनपायनी।।

सुनि प्रभु परम सरल कपि बानी। एवमस्तु तब कहेउ भवानी।।

उमा राम सुभाउ जेहिं जाना। ताहि भजनु तजि भाव न आना।।

यह संबाद जासु उर आवा। रघुपति चरन भगति सोइ पावा।।

सुनि प्रभु बचन कहहिं कपिबृंदा। जय जय जय कृपाल सुखकंदा।।

तब रघुपति कपिपतिहि बोलावा। कहा चलैं कर करहु बनावा।।

अब बिलंबु केहि कारन कीजे। तुरत कपिन्ह कहुँ आयसु दीजे।।

कौतुक देखि सुमन बहु बरषी। नभ तें भवन चले सुर हरषी।।

दो.– कपिपति बेगि बोलाए आए जूथप जूथ।

नाना बरन अतुल बल बानर भालु बरूथ।।३४।।

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He held the hands of Hanuman, and made him sit close to him. Ram asked, "Tell me Hanuman, how could you burn down the formidable fort and Lanka protected by Ravana?" Hanuman felt that the master was pleased with him. He spoke without pride, "Bravery of a monkey is limited to jumping from one branch of a tree to another. Crossing the ocean, arson of the golden city and uprooting the grove after killing demons — all of that is due to your grace, Master, and not my superiority at all. 3&4&5

"Nothing is unattainable for him towards whom you are well-disposed. Master, with your grace even cotton can burn down the submarine fire. D 33

"Please be kind to me. Lord, grant me your comforting and incessant devotion." Shiva said to Parvati, "When Ram heard Hanuman's simple entreaty, he utterred, 'so be it'. C 1

"Uma, a person who becomes familiar with Ram's disposition, desires nothing else but to sing devotional songs. One whose heart draws inspiration from this conversation between Ram and Hanuman, attains love and trust of Ram." 2

Monkeys heard the words of Ram. They started cheering and hailing victory for Ram. He called Sugriva, the king of monkeys, and told him to prepare for the march of troops. "For what reason should there be delay now? Issue commands to the monkeys forthwith." The gods showered flowers after they witnessed the spectacle, and returned to their celestial homes cheerfully. 3 & 4

Sugriva promptly summoned a number of army commanders. Groups of monkeys and bears of various complexions and incomparable strength gathered there. D 34

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प्रभु पद पंकज नावहिं सीसा। गर्जहिं भालु महाबल कीसा।।
देखी राम सकल कपि सेना। चितइ कृपा करि राजिव नैना।।
राम कृपा बल पाइ कपिंदा। भए पच्छजुत मनहुँ गिरिंदा।।
हरषि राम तब कीन्ह पयाना। सगुन भए सुंदर सुभ नाना।।
जासु सकल मंगलमय कीती। तासु पयान सगुन यह नीती।।
प्रभु पयान जाना बैदेहीं। फरकि बाम अँग जनु कहि देहीं।।
जोइ जोइ सगुन जानकिहि होई। असगुन भयउ रावनहि सोई।।
चला कटकु को बरनैं पारा। गर्जहिं बानर भालु अपारा।।
नख आयुध गिरि पादपधारी। चले गगन महि इच्छाचारी।।
केहरिनाद भालु कपि करहीं। डगमगाहिं दिग्गज चिक्करहीं।।

छं.–चिक्करहिं दिग्गज डोल महि गिरि लोल सागर खरभरे।
मन हरष सभ गंधर्ब सुर मुनि नाग किंनर दुख टरे।।
कटकटहिं मर्कट बिकट भट बहु कोटि कोटिन्ह धावहीं।
जय राम प्रबल प्रताप कोसलनाथ गुन गन गावहीं।।१।।
सहि सक न भार उदार अहिपति बार बारहिं मोहई।
गह दसन पुनि पुनि कमठ पृष्ट कठोर सो किमि सोहई।।
रघुबीर रुचिर प्रयान प्रस्थिति जानि परम सुहावनी।
जनु कमठ खर्पर सर्पराज सो लिखत अबिचल पावनी।। २ ।।

दो.– एहि बिधि जाइ कृपानिधि उतरे सागर तीर।
जहँ तहँ लागे खान फल भालु बिपुल कपि बीर।।३५।।

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C

They bowed at the feet of Ram. Bears and monkeys rumbled. Ram saw the troops of monkeys. He cast a benign look on all of them. Commanders of monkeys drew strength from Ram's grace and became like winged-mountains. Then Ram happily marched on, and a number of auspicious omens occured. 1 & 2

It is ordained that good auguries transpire when someone who bestows total welfare begins a journey. Sita's left limbs throbbed to announce Ram's march. 3

The benign portents which occured for Sita, appeared as ominous for Ravana. The army was on the march. Numberless monkeys and bears rumbled. They carried trees and rocks freely through the sky and land. Bears and monkeys roared like lions. Elephants supporting the earth trembled and trumpeted. 4 & 5

Ch

Elephants[34] supporting the earth trumpeted. Earth wobbled, hills trembled and seas were full of commotion. Celestial musicians, gods, hermits, denizens of the nether world, deformed beings were all happy that their distress was over. Crores of monkey warriors were gnashing their teeth and screeching. Many of them were running. 'Victory to the powerful glory of Ram, the king of Kosala'—such laudatory slogans were sung. 1

Sheshnaga[35], the gracious king of snakes, became shaky in holding weight of the army, and swooned time and again. It clenched the fangs around the hard back of the Turtle[36] several times. It appeared as if the king of snakes wanted to inscribe the immortal and sacred chronicle of Ram's voyage on the shell of the Tortoise. 2

D

In this manner Ram reached the coast. Bears and monkeys started eating fruits freely. 35

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उहाँ निसाचर रहहिं ससंका। जब तें जारि गयउ कपि लंका।।

निज निज गृहँ सब करहिं बिचारा। नहिं निसिचर कुल केर उबारा।।

जासु दूत बल बरनि न जाई। तेहि आएँ पुर कवन भलाई।।

दूतिन्ह सन सुनि पुरजन बानी। मंदोदरी अधिक अकुलानी।।

रहसि जोरि कर पति पग लागी। बोली बचन नीति रस पागी।।

कंत करष हरि सन परिहरहू। मोर कहा अति हित हियँ धरहू।।

समुझत जासु दूत कइ करनी। स्त्रवहिं गर्भ रजनीचर घरनी।।

तासु नारि निज सचिव बोलाई। पठवहु कंत जो चहहु भलाई।।

तव कुल कमल बिपिन दुखदाई। सीता सीत निसा सम आई।।

सुनहु नाथ सीता बिनु दीन्हें। हित न तुम्हार संभु अज कीन्हें।।

दो.– राम बान अहि गन सरिस निकर निसाचर भेक।

जब लगि ग्रसत न तब लगि जतनु करहु तजि टेक ।। ३६ ।।

श्रवन सुनी सठ ता करि बानी। बिहसा जगत बिदित अभिमानी।।

सभय सुभाउ नारि कर साचा। मंगल महुँ भय मन अति काचा।।

जौं आवइ मर्कट कटकाई। जिअहिं बिचारे निसिचर खाई।।

कंपहिं लोकप जाकीं त्रासा। तासु नारि सभीत बड़ि हासा।।

अस कहि बिहसि ताहि उर लाई। चलेउ सभाँ ममता अधिकाई।।

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C

Across the sea, demons lived in constant fear after Hanuman put Lanka to the torch. All of them ruminated at home that no deliverance for the demon race was possible anymore. 1

'What good will be served to the city by his visit, whose messenger's bravery was unfathomable?' Mandodari was agitated to hear from her maids about such talks of citizens. 2

In privacy, Mandodari saluted Ravana by touching his feet. She gave him a prudent advice. "Please cease hostility with Ram. I speak for your benefit. Wives of demons aborted after viewing the deeds of Ram's messenger. Please call your minister, and send back the lady with him to Ram if you desire your well-being. 3 & 4

" Sita has descended like a frosty night on the lotus forest of your dynasty. Shiva and Brahma will not be able to help you unless you return Sita. 5

" The arrows of Ram are like snakes, and demons are like frogs. So long as the demons are not swallowed, shun your stubborness, and make efforts to save them."

D 36

Ravana, notorious for vanity, grinned and said, "Women's temperament, indeed, is timid. They get frightened even during propitious times. C1

" Well, if the contingent of monkeys arrives here, the demons will eat them merrily. Guardians of all the directions tremble before me. And yet my wife is frightened. It is, indeed, ridiculous!" 2

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मंदोदरी हृदयँ कर चिंता। भयउ कंत पर बिधि बिपरीता।।

बैठेउ सभाँ खबरि असि पाई। सिंधु पार सेना सब आई।।

बूझेसि सचिव उचित मत कहहू। ते सब हँसे मष्ट करि रहहू।।

जितेहु सुरासुर तब श्रम नाहीं। नर बानर केहि लेखे माहीं।।

दो.- सचिव बैद गुर तीनि जौं प्रिय बोलहिं भय आस।

राज धर्म तन तीनि कर होइ बेगिहीं नास।। ३७ ।।

सोइ रावन कहुँ बनी सहाई। अस्तुति करहिं सुनाइ सुनाई।।

अवसर जानि बिभीषनु आवा। भ्राता चरन सीसु तेहिं नावा।।

पुनि सिरु नाइ बैठ निज आसन। बोला बचन पाइ अनुसासन।।

जौ कृपाल पूँछिहु मोहि बाता। मति अनुरूप कहउँ हित ताता।।

जो आपन चाहै कल्याना। जसु सुमति सुभ गति सुख नाना।।

सो परनारि लिलार गोसाईं। तजउ चउथि के चंद कि नाईं।।

चौदह भुवन एक पति होई। भूतद्रोह तिष्टइ नहिं सोई।।

गुन सागर नागर नर जोऊ। अलप लोभ भल कहइ न कोऊ।।

दो.-काम क्रोध मद लोभ सब नाथ नरक के पंथ।

सब परिहरि रघुबीरहि भजहु भजहिं जेहि संत।। ३८ ।।

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Ravana embraced Mandodari affectionately, and went to the council. She was, however, worried that the Creator was against her husband. 3

As Ravana sat in the court, he was informed that the belligerent army had reached the opposite coast. He asked the counsellors to express their views. They laughed and said, "You should not yield to distractions. You vanquished gods and demons without any toil, then where do the men and monkeys figure?" 4

If a minister, a doctor or a *guru* speaks to please out of fear or hope, then the kingdom, the body or the *dharma* respectively is doomed to an early destruction. D 37

Similar counsel emerged in support of Ravana. They eulogised him to have his ear. Vibhishana perceived that to be an appropriate time. He came and touched the feet of his brother. Then he took his seat bowing again to Ravana. Vibhishana addressed Ravana when he was directed to do so. He said, " Since you have asked me, I shall express my opinion for your benefit.
C 1 & 2

"A person who desires for himself well-being, fame, a judicious will, propitious fate and happiness, should avoid looking at the forehead of another man's wife like the moon of the fourth night (which is said to bring infamy). 3

"A man may rule over fourteen worlds[37]. But by being hostile to people, he cannot sustain himself. A clever man with many virtues is not admired, if he has even an iota of cupidity. 4

"Lust, anger, arrogance and avarice are paths leading to hell. So abandon these, and adore Ram whom saints worship. D 38

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तात राम नहिं नर भूपाला। भुवनेस्वर कालहु कर काला।।

ब्रह्म अनामय अज भगवंता। ब्यापक अजित अनादि अनंता।।

गो द्विज धेनु देव हितकारी। कृपा सिंधु मानुष तनुधारी।।

जन रंजन भंजन खल ब्राता। बेद धर्म रच्छक सुनु भ्राता।।

ताहि बयरु तजि नाइअ माथा। प्रनतारति भंजन रघुनाथा।।

देहु नाथ प्रभु कहुँ बैदेही। भजहु राम बिनु हेतु सनेही।।

सरन गएँ प्रभु ताहु न त्यागा। बिस्व द्रोह कृत अघ जेहि लागा।।

जासु नाम त्रय ताप नसावन। सोइ प्रभु प्रगट समुझु जियँ रावन।।

दो.– बार बार पद लागउँ बिनय करउँ दससीस।

परिहरि मान मोह मद भजहु कोसलाधीस।। ३९ (क)।।

मुनि पुलस्ति निज सिष्य सन कहि पठई यह बात।

तुरत सो मैं प्रभु सन कही पाइ सुअवसरु तात।। ३९ (ख)।।

माल्यवंत अति सचिव सयाना। तासु बचन सुनि अति सुख माना।।

तात अनुज तव नीति बिभूषन। सो उर धरहु जो कहत बिभीषन।।

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"Ram is not a ruler of men alone. He is world's sovereign, and the conqueror of death. He is *Brahman*, the attributeless absolute (generally not an object of worship, but rather of meditation and knowledge). He is *Bhagwan*, the personal God (the adorable one and *shadaiyasharya yukta* i.e.a repository of the six powers - fame, prosperity, righteousness, renunciation, learning and supremacy). He is not pernicious and is unborn, all-pervading, invincible and without beginning and end."

C 1

Vibhishana continued, "Ram has assumed the form of a human being for the benefaction of cows, *brahmins*, earth and gods. He gratifies the people, but he destroys vile men. He protects the vedas and *dharma*. 2

" Please cease hostility, and bow your head before Ram. He ends the miseries of supplicants. Ram is kind for no reason. Worship him. Please return Sita to Ram who is lord of the world. 3

"Ram would not deny shelter to a man even if he is notorious for committing malicious acts against society. Chanting of the name 'Ram' extirpates three kinds of miseries[38]. The same Ram is present here. Ple-
ase bear this in mind. 4

"I pay obeisance to you again, and respectfully beseech you to get rid of your egotism, perplexity and lust. Adore the king of Kosala D 39 a

"Sage Pulastya had conveyed through his pupil the aforesaid message for you. I waited for a suitable opportunity to inform you." Malyavanta, a competent minister was present there. D 39 b

C

He was delighted to hear Vibhishana's conversation with Ravana. Malyavanta spoke to Ravana, "Your younger brother is a gem of wisdom. Please pay heed to his advice." 1

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रिपु उतकरष कहत सठ दोऊ। दूरि न करहु इहाँ हइ कोऊ।।

माल्यवंत गृह गयउ बहोरी। कहइ बिभीषनु पुनि कर जोरी।।

सुमति कुमति सब के उर रहहीं। नाथ पुरान निगम अस कहहीं।।

जहाँ सुमति तहँ संपति नाना। जहाँ कुमति तहँ बिपति निदाना।।

तव उर कुमति बसी बिपरीता। हित अनहित मानहु रिपु प्रीता।।

कालराति निसिचर कुल केरी। तेहि सीता पर प्रीति घनेरी।।

दो.– तात चरन गहि मागउँ राखहु मोर दुलार।

सीता देहु राम कहुँ अहित न होइ तुम्हार।।४०।।

बुध पुरान श्रुति संमत बानी। कही बिभीषन नीति बखानी।।

सुनत दसानन उठा रिसाई। खल तोहि निकट मृत्यु अब आई।।

जिअसि सदा सठ मोर जिआवा। रिपु कर पच्छ मूढ़ तोहि भावा।।

कहसि न खल अस को जग माहीं। भुज बल जाहि जिता मैं नाहीं।।

मम पुर बसि तपसिन्ह पर प्रीती। सठ मिलु जाइ तिन्हहि कहु नीती।।

अस कहि कीन्हेसि चरन प्रहारा। अनुज गहे पद बारहिं बारा।।

उमा संत कइ इहइ बड़ाई। मंद करत जो करइ भलाई।।

तुम्ह पितु सरिस भलेहिं मोहि मारा। रामु भजें हित नाथ तुम्हारा।।

सचिव संग लै नभ पथ गयऊ। सबहि सुनाइ कहत अस भयऊ।।

दो.–रामु सत्यसंकल्प प्रभु सभा कालबस तोरि।

मैं रघुबीर सरन अब जाउँ देहु जनि खोरि।।४१।।

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Ravana said, "Both these fools are extolling the enemy. Is anyone here? Take them away." Malyavanta then returned home. But Vibhishana joined his hands reverentially, and said, "Lord, according to teachings of *puranas*[39] and *nigamas*[40] good moral sense as well as perversity are immanent in all human beings. Prosperity stays where good disposition exists. With impropriety, misery is the end result. At present, waywardness pervades your heart. You regard your gains as losses, and treat enemies as friends. You are infatuated by Sita. But she is like a night of doom for the demon-race. **2 & 3 & 4**

" Dear brother, I touch your feet and implore you to remain fond of me as ever. Please restore Sita to Ram. You shall be out of harm's way." **D 40**

Vibhishana spoke of moral principles and ethical conduct as expounded by intellectuals and in *puranas* and *vedas*. But Ravana stood in rage, and shouted, "You treacherous fellow, Death is approaching you. You have lived off my charities always. But you are siding with enemies. Tell me, who is there in the universe whom I have not defeated. **C 1 & 2**

" You are living in my city, yet are fond of the two renunciants. Fool, you go, join them, and lecture them on moral conduct. "Ravana then kicked Vibhishana, but he held Ravana's foot respectfully. **3**

Shiva said, "Uma[41], savants are benign even to evil doers." Vibhishana spoke to Ravana, "You are like a father to me. Never mind that you have struck me, but your well-being lies in the adoration of Ram." **4**

Vibhishana led his advisers to traverse through the sky, and spoke to others, "Ram is true in resolve. Your assembly is doomed. I take sanctuary of Ram. Do not censure me." **5 & D 41**

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अस कहि चला बिभीषनु जबहीं। आयूहीन भए सब तबहीं।।
साधु अवग्या तुरत भवानी। कर कल्यान अखिल कै हानी।।
रावन जबहिं बिभीषन त्यागा। भयउ बिभव बिनु तबहिं अभागा।।
चलेउ हरषि रघुनायक पाहीं। करत मनोरथ बहु मन माहीं।।
देखिहउँ जाइ चरन जलजाता। अरुन मृदुल सेवक सुखदाता।।
जे पद परसि तरी रिषिनारी। दंडक कानन पावनकारी।।
जे पद जनकसुताँ उर लाए। कपट कुरंग संग धर धाए।।
हर उर सर सरोज पद जेई। अहोभाग्य मैं देखिहउँ तेई।।

दो.– जिन्ह पायन्ह के पादुकन्हि भरतु रहे मन लाइ।
ते पद आजु बिलोकिहउँ इन्ह नयनन्हि अब जाइ।। ४२ ।।

एहि बिधि करत सप्रेम बिचारा। आयउ सपदि सिंधु एहिं पारा।।
कपिन्ह बिभीषनु आवत देखा। जाना कोउ रिपु दूत बिसेषा।।
ताहि राखि कपीस पहिं आए। समाचार सब ताहि सुनाए।।
कह सुग्रीव सुनहु रघुराई। आवा मिलन दसानन भाई।।
कह प्रभु सखा बूझिऐ काहा। कहइ कपीस सुनहु नरनाहा।।
जानि न जाइ निसाचर माया। कामरूप केहि कारन आया।।
भेद हमार लेन सठ आवा। राखिअ बाँधि मोहि अस भावा।।
सखा नीति तुम्ह नीकि बिचारी। मम पन सरनागत भयहारी।।
सुनि प्रभु बचन हरष हनुमाना। सरनागत बच्छल भगवाना।।

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The life span of demons reached its end as soon as Vibhishana finished his speech and departed. Shiva spoke to Uma, "Disrespect to the venerable instantly destroys all welfare." . C 1

The ill-fated Ravana lost grandeur as soon as he dismissed Vibhishana. Vibhishana set out with noble intentions to meet Ram. He mused, 'I will see the tender lotus feet of Ram which enchant adherents. The sage's wife, *Ahalya*[42], achieved salvation after touching them. They sanctify the Dandak forest. Sita treasures the image of those feet in her heart after she saw them chasing the deceitful deer. It is my good fortune that I shall behold the feet which abide in the heart of Shiva like lotuses in a lake. 2 & 3 & 4

'Bharat cherishes Ram's wooden-sandals. I shall, henceforth, set my eyes on the feet which wore them.' D 42

Engrossed in loving reverie, Vibhishana landed on the shore. Monkeys saw him. They took him for a special emissary of the enemy. C 1

Monkeys made arrangement for Vibhishana's stay, and came to inform Sugriva. "A brother of Ravana has come to meet you," Sugriva told Ram. 2

Ram asked Sugriva, "Friend, can you guess the purpose of his visit?" Sugriva replied, "Lord, a demon's artifice is incomprehensible. One who can change his form at will, why has he come? 3

"The fool has come to spy on us. He should be tied up in my opinion." Ram said, "You have thought of a wise course of action. But I am under 'a vow' to remove fear from one's mind who seeks my protection." 4

Hanuman was glad to hear the words of Ram. He admired Ram's parental affection for those who come for refuge. 5

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दो.– सरनागत कहुँ जे तजहिं निज अनहित अनुमानि।

ते नर पावँर पापमय तिन्हहि बिलोकत हानि ।। ४३ ।।

कोटि बिप्र बध लागहिं जाहू। आएँ सरन तजउँ नहिं ताहू।।

सनमुख होइ जीव मोहि जबहीं। जन्म कोटि अघ नासहिं तबहीं।।

पापवंत कर सहज सुभाऊ। भजनु मोर तेहि भाव न काऊ।।

जौं पै दुष्टहृदय सोइ होई। मोरें सनमुख आव कि सोई।।

निर्मल मन जन सो मोहि पावा। मोहि कपट छल छिद्र न भावा।।

भेद लेन पठवा दससीसा। तबहुँ न कछु भय हानि कपीसा।।

जग महुँ सखा निसाचर जेते। लछिमनु हनइ निमिष महुँ तेते।।

जौं सभीत आवा सरनाईं। रखिहउँ ताहि प्रान की नाईं।।

दो.– उभय भाँति तेहि आनहु हँसि कह कृपानिकेत।

जय कृपाल कहि कपि चले अंगद हनू समेत।।४४।।

सादर तेहि आगे करि बानर। चले जहाँ रघुपति करुनाकर।।

दूरिहि ते देखे द्वौ भ्राता । नयनानंद दान के दाता ।।

बहुरि राम छबिधाम बिलोकी । रहेउ ठटुकि एकटक पल रोकी ।।

भुज प्रलंब कंजारुन लोचन । स्यामल गात प्रनत भय मोचन ।।

सिंघ कंध आयत उर सोहा । आनन अमित मदन मन मोहा ।।

नयन नीर पुलकित अति गाता। मन धरि धीर कही मृदु बाता।।

नाथ दसानन कर मैं भ्राता। निसिचर बंस जनम सुरत्राता।।

सहज पापप्रिय तामस देहा। जथा उलूकहि तम पर नेहा।।

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Ram said, "Those who deny asylum to seekers, D
mindful of their own interest or harm, are base and
sinful men. It is damaging to see them. 43

"I shall not deny shelter even to him who has the C
stigma of killing crores of *brahmins*. All sins of a man
lapse when he prays before me. 1

"A person vile by nature, is never fond of my
prayers. If Vibhishana is really wicked, he would not
have come to meet me. 2

"A man with a chaste mind has access to me. I do
not like guile, deceit and moral weakness. Even if
Ravana has sent him to spy on us, there is no fear or
harm. 3

"Lakshamana can kill all demons in a twinkle. If
Vibhishana has come to me in fear, I shall protect him
as my own life. 4

"In both circumstances you bring him here." Then D
the monkeys along with Hanuman and Angada left
hailing, 'victory to merciful Ram'. 44

Monkeys brought Vibhishana to the fore, and C
proceeded to meet Ram. Vibhishana saw both the
brothers from distance, and feasted his eyes on their
winsome presence. 1

Vibhishana again looked at Ram, and stood in
bewilderment without closing his eyes. Ram's hands
were long. His eyes possessed the beauty of a red lotus.
His swarthy frame made his devotees fearless. 2

Ram's shoulders were like that of a lion. His chest
was vast and elegant. His face stole the heart of several
gods of love. Vibhishana's eyes became moist, and the
hair of his body bristled. Soon he regained his
composure, and spoke gently, "Lord, I am a brother of
Ravana. I have been born in a family of demons. My
constitution's make-up is gross, and has the qualities of
darkness *(tamas)*. By disposition, we are as fond of
impiety as owls are of darkness. 3 & 4

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दो.– श्रवन सुजसु सुनि आयउँ प्रभु भंजन भव भीर।
त्राहि त्राहि आरति हरन सरन सुखद रघुबीर।। ४५ ।।

अस कहि करत दंडवत देखा। तुरत उठे प्रभु हरष बिसेषा।।
दीन बचन सुनि प्रभु मन भावा। भुज बिसाल गहि हृदयँ लगावा।।
अनुज सहित मिलि ढिग बैठारी। बोले बचन भगत भयहारी।।
कहु लंकेस सहित परिवारा। कुसल कुठाहर बास तुम्हारा ।।
खल मंडलीं बसहु दिनु राती। सखा धरम निबहइ केहि भाँती।।
मैं जानउँ तुम्हारि सब रीती। अति नय निपुन न भाव अनीती।।
बरु भल बास नरक कर ताता। दुष्ट संग जनि देइ बिधाता।।
अब पद देखि कुसल रघुराया। जौं तुम्ह कीन्हि जानि जन दाया।।

दो.– तब लगि कुसल न जीव कहुँ सपनेहुँ मन बिश्राम ।
जब लगि भजत न राम कहुँ सोक धाम तजि काम ।। ४६ ।।

तब लगि हृदयँ बसत खल नाना। लोभ मोह मच्छर मद माना।।
जब लगि उर न बसत रघुनाथा। धरें चाप सायक कटि भाथा।।
ममता तरुन तमी अँधिआरी। राग द्वेष उलूक सुखकारी।।
तब लगि बसति जीव मन माहीं। जब लगि प्रभु प्रताप रबि नाहीं।।
अब मैं कुसल मिटे भय भारे। देखि राम पद कमल तुम्हारे ।।
तुम्ह कृपाल जा पर अनुकूला। ताहि न ब्याप त्रिबिध भव सूला।।

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"Master, I have heard your reputation that you D
liberate your adherents from worldly fears. Save me...
rescue me! Kindly provide me your peaceful asylum." 45

Vibhishana then prostrated to pay obeisance. Ram C
looked at him. He was pleased to hear Vibhishana's
humble words. Ram put his extensive arms around
Vibhishana, and held him close to his
chest. 1

Ram and Lakshamana made Vibhishana sit near
them. Ram spoke words of reassurance to Vibhishana,
"Chief of Lanka, please let me know about the welfare
of your family. You are dwelling in an evil place. 2

"Day and night you live in the company of wicked
demons. How are you able to perform righteous duties?
I am aware of your conduct. You are prudent and
upright. Unethical practices do not appeal to you. 3

"It is better to stay in hell, but, may the Creator never
assign one the company of a villain." Vibhishana
replied, "Master, all is well after I saw your feet. You
have graciously accepted me as an attendant. 4

"Until one prays to you shedding all worldly D
desires which are the abode of sorrow, neither can there
be well-being for him nor can he dream of mental peace. 46

"Avarice, delusion, envy, lust and conceit—these C
villainies are present in one's mind if Ram holding a
bow and arrow with a quiver on the waist, does not
dwell in his heart. 1

"Love and hatred are like owls which enjoy the dark
night of infatuation. These abide in the mind until the
sun of the Lord's grace does not rise. 2

"I am safe now. My fears have disappeared in your
sanctuary. When you are favourable to someone, he
does not undergo the three types of worldly tortures. 3

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मैं निसिचर अति अधम सुभाऊ। सुभ आचरनु कीन्ह नहिं काऊ।।

जासु रूप मुनि ध्यान न आवा। तेहिं प्रभु हरषि हृदयँ मोहि लावा।।

दो.– अहोभाग्य मम अमित अति राम कृपा सुख पुंज।

देखेउँ नयन बिरंचि सिव सेब्य जुगल पद कंज ।। ४७ ।।

सुनहु सखा निज कहउँ सुभाऊ। जान भुसुंडि संभु गिरिजाऊ।।

जौं नर होइ चराचर द्रोही। आवै सभय सरन तकि मोही।।

तजि मद मोह कपट छल नाना। करउँ सद्य तेहि साधु समाना।।

जननी जनक बंधु सुत दारा। तनु धनु भवन सुहृद परिवारा।।

सब कै ममता ताग बटोरी। मम पद मनहि बाँध बरि डोरी।।

समदरसी इच्छा कछु नाहीं। हरष सोक भय नहिं मन माहीं।।

अस सज्जन मम उर बस कैसें। लोभी हृदयँ बसइ धनु जैसें।।

तुम्ह सारिखे संत प्रिय मोरें। धरउँ देह नहिं आन निहोरें।।

दो.– सगुन उपासक परहित निरत नीति दृढ़ नेम।

ते नर प्रान समान मम जिन्ह कें द्विज पद प्रेम ।। ४८ ।।

सुनु लंकेस सकल गुन तोरें। तातें तुम्ह अतिसय प्रिय मोरें।।

राम बचन सुनि बानर जूथा। सकल कहहिं जय कृपा बरूथा।।

सुनत बिभीषनु प्रभु कै बानी। नहिं अघात श्रवनामृत जानी।।

पद अंबुज गहि बारहिं बारा। हृदयँ समात न प्रेमु अपारा।।

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"I am a demon of very mean behaviour. I have never conducted myself in a benign manner. You have embraced me happily, even though your form is beyond the grasp of sages' meditation. 4

"Ram, you are a repository of kindness and solace. It is my great and good fortune that I behold your lotus feet which are adored by Brahma and Shiva." D 47

Ram replied to Vibhishana, "Listen friend, I speak to you about my disposition which is known to Bhushandi, Shambhu and Girija. A man may be hostile to animate and inanimate objects. Yet, if he comes to me for refuge in fear, forsaking lust, perplexity, fraud and deception, I reform him in the mould of a virtuous man immediately. There are strings of attachment with mother, father, kinsman, son, wife, health, wealth, house, friend and household. Let a man twine these strings into a rope, and tie his heart to my feet with it. He should be unbiased, and his mind be free from desires, pleasure, distress and fear. Such a good man will abide in my heart like money in the bosom of a greedy man. Saints like you are favoured by me. Or else I do not assume a body on call of others.

C 1 & 2 & 3 & 4

"Men who worship a personal God are altruists. They are stead-fast in observing propriety and precepts, and have respect for *brahmins*. Such men are dear to me as my own life. D 48

"Chief of Lanka, you have these qualities. So you are dear to me." The monkeys heard Ram and cheered, 'victory to the merciful.' C 1

Ram's speech was like nectar to Vibhishana's ears. They were insatiable. His heart overflowed with devotion, and he grasped the feet of Ram several times. 2

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सुनहु देव सचराचर स्वामी। प्रनतपाल उर अंतरजामी।।

उर कछु प्रथम बासना रही। प्रभु पद प्रीति सरित सो बही।।

अब कृपाल निज भगति पावनी। देहु सदा सिव मन भावनी।।

एवमस्तु कहि प्रभु रनधीरा। मागा तुरत सिंधु कर नीरा।।

जदपि सखा तव इच्छा नाहीं। मोर दरसु अमोघ जग माहीं।।

अस कहि राम तिलक तेहि सारा। सुमन बृष्टि नभ भई अपारा।।

दो.– रावन क्रोध अनल निज स्वास समीर प्रचंड।

जरत बिभीषनु राखेउ दीन्हेउ राजु अखंड ।। ४९ (क) ।।

जो संपति सिव रावनहि दीन्हि दिएँ दस माथ।

सोइ संपदा बिभीषनहि सकुचि दीन्हि रघुनाथ ।। ४९ (ख) ।।

अस प्रभु छाड़ि भजहिं जे आना। ते नर पसु बिनु पूँछ बिषाना ।।

निज जन जानि ताहि अपनावा। प्रभु सुभाव कपि कुल मन भावा ।।

पुनि सर्बग्य सर्ब उर बासी। सर्बरूप सब रहित उदासी ।।

बोले बचन नीति प्रतिपालक। कारन मनुज दनुज कुल घालक ।।

सुनु कपीस लंकापति बीरा। केहि बिधि तरिअ जलधि गंभीरा ।।

संकुल मकर उरग झष जाती। अति अगाध दुस्तर सब भाँती ।।

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Vibhishana implored, "Divine lord of the universe, guardian of humble seekers, you regulate the internal feelings of men! I had desires and fancies before I met you. They have gushed out in the stream of my affection for you. Please give me a boon. I should be devoted to you in a manner which appeals to Shiva's mind. " Ram uttered, "I assent." Then Ram asked for ocean water to give benediction to Vibhishana. 3&4

Ram said to Vibhishana, "You have not expressed any desire. But a glimpse of my person is unfailingly rewarding." Ram applied the royal mark on the forehead of Vibhishana. Plentiful flowers rained from the sky. 5

Vibhishana's breath had fanned the fire of Ravana's rage. Ram saved a smouldering Vibhishana, and gifted him the kingdom of Lanka. Ravana, had sacrificed his ten heads in the worship of Shiva. He was then awarded wealth and prosperity by Shiva. Ram gifted the same fortune modestly to Vibhishana.

D 49a & 49b

Men who turn away from Ram and worship others, are animals without tails and horns. Ram adopted Vibhishana as his faithful adherent. Monkeys were elated to observe the conduct of Ram. C 1

Ram knows all. He abides in the heart of everyone. He is present in all forms, yet he is aloof and nonchalant. Ram took the human form to destroy the race of demons. He asked both Sugriva and Vibhishana how to cross the sea. It was deep, unfathomable and inhabited by different species of sea-animals, fishes and snakes. 2 & 3

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कह लंकेस सुनहु रघुनायक । कोटि सिंधु सोषक तव सायक ।।

जद्यपि तदपि नीति असि गाई । बिनय करिअ सागर सन जाई ।।

दो.– प्रभु तुम्हार कुलगुर जलधि कहिहि उपाय बिचारि ।

बिनु प्रयास सागर तरिहि सकल भालु कपि धारि ।। ५० ।।

सखा कही तुम्ह नीकि उपाई। करिअ दैव जौं होइ सहाई।।

मंत्र न यह लछिमन मन भावा। राम बचन सुनि अति दुख पावा।।

नाथ दैव कर कवन भरोसा। सोषिअ सिंधु करिअ मन रोसा।।

कादर मन कहुँ एक अधारा। दैव दैव आलसी पुकारा ।।

सुनत बिहसि बोले रघुबीरा। ऐसेहिं करब धरहु मन धीरा ।।

अस कहि प्रभु अनुजहि समुझाई। सिंधु समीप गए रघुराई।।

प्रथम प्रनाम कीन्ह सिरु नाई। बैठे पुनि तट दर्भ डसाई ।।

जबहिं बिभीषन प्रभु पहिं आए। पाछें रावन दूत पठाए ।।

दो.– सकल चरित तिन्ह देखे धरें कपट कपि देह ।

प्रभु गुन हृदयँ सराहहिं सरनागत पर नेह ।। ५१ ।।

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Vibhishana said, "Lord, your one arrow can dry up crores of oceans. Nevertheless, as per the code of honour, please entreat the sea. 4

"The sea is an ancestor in your lineage. He will suggest a proper expedient. Then the whole army of monkeys and bears can cross the sea without toil."

D 50

Ram said, "Friend, you have given a sane advice. Let us hope for divine help, and act." Lakshamana did not favour the counsel, and was displeased with the utterance of Ram. C 1

Lakshamana said, "Lord, what is the credibility of the divine? Be angry and evaporate the sea. There is one prop for timid and lazy persons. They scream, 'God help...God help'."Ram answered jovially, "I shall do so. Wait and see." He, thus, convinced his younger brother not to lose patience. Then Ram approached the sea. 2 &3

Ram made obeisance to the sea. He spread out sacred *darbha* grass on the shore, and sat on it. Meanwhile, Ravana sent informers in trail of Vibhishana when he left to meet Ram. 4

They cunningly disguised themselves as monkeys, and watched the happenings. At heart. they admired Ram's virtues, particularly, his affection for those who were under his shelter. D 51

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प्रगट बखानहिं राम सुभाऊ। अति सप्रेम गा बिसरि दुराऊ।।

रिपु के दूत कपिन्ह तब जाने। सकल बाँधि कपीस पहिं आने।।

कह सुग्रीव सुनहु सब बानर। अंग भंग करि पठवहु निसिचर।।

सुनि सुग्रीव बचन कपि धाए। बाँधि कटक चहु पास फिराए।।

बहु प्रकार मारन कपि लागे। दीन पुकारत तदपि न त्यागे।।

जो हमार हर नासा काना। तेहि कोसलाधीस कै आना।।

सुनि लछिमन सब निकट बोलाए। दया लागि हँसि तुरत छोड़ाए।।

रावन कर दीजहु यह पाती। लछिमन बचन बाचु कुलघाती।।

दो.– कहेहु मुखागर मूढ़ सन मम संदेसु उदार।

सीता देइ मिलहु न त आवा कालु तुम्हार ।। ५२ ।।

तुरत नाइ लछिमन पद माथा। चले दूत बरनत गुन गाथा।।

कहत राम जसु लंकाँ आए। रावन चरन सीस तिन्ह नाए।।

बिहसि दसानन पूँछी बाता। कहसि न सुक आपनि कुसलाता।।

पुनि कहु खबरि बिभीषन केरी। जाहि मृत्यु आई अति नेरी।।

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They praised Ram openly, and forgot to remain covert. Monkeys recognized them as enemy's spies. They captured them, and took them to Sugriva. C 1

Sugriva told the monkeys to mutilate the demons and send them back. Monkeys bound the spies, and paraded them before the troops. 2

Monkeys thrashed the informers, and did not stop even after the latter started wailing. The messengers screamed, "We beg mercy from The Chief of Kosala. These monkeys are bent on deforming our noses and ears." 3

Lakshamana felt pity for the informers, and released them with glee. He asked the spies to deliver a letter to Ravana, and tell him, 'Destroyer of your tribe! Read the words of Lakshamana.' 4

He told the informers to convey his 'generous' message to 'the fool', thus, 'Release Sita, and appear before Ram or else your death has arrived'.

D 52

The informers bent down their heads to touch Lakshamana's feet, and then departed singing Ram's praises. They reached Lanka, and met Ravana. C 1

Ravana merrily enquired from Shuka, the informer, "Why don't you speak about your welfare? Give me news of Vibhishana whose death is approaching fast. 2

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करत राज लंका सठ त्यागी। होइहि जव कर कीट अभागी।।

पुनि कहु भालु कीस कटकाई। कठिन काल प्रेरित चलि आई।।

जिन्ह के जीवन कर रखवारा। भयउ मृदुल चित सिंधु बिचारा।।

कहु तपसिन्ह कै बात बहोरी। जिन्ह के हृदयँ त्रास अति मोरी।।

दो.–की भइ भेंट कि फिरि गए श्रवन सुजसु सुनि मोर।

कहसि न रिपु दल तेज बल बहुत चकित चित तोर ।। ५३ ।।

नाथ कृपा करि पूँछेहु जैसें। मानहु कहा क्रोध तजि तैसें।।

मिला जाइ जब अनुज तुम्हारा। जातहिं राम तिलक तेहि सारा।।

रावन दूत हमहि सुनि काना। कपिन्ह बाँधि दीन्हे दुख नाना।।

श्रवन नासिका काटैं लागे। राम सपथ दीन्हें हम त्यागे।।

पूँछहु नाथ राम कटकाई। बदन कोटि सत बरनि न जाई।।

नाना बरन भालु कपि धारी। बिकटानन बिसाल भयकारी।।

जेहिं पुर दहेउ हतेउ सुत तोरा। सकल कपिन्ह महँ तेहि बलु थोरा।।

अमित नाम भट कठिन कराला। अमित नाग बल बिपुल बिसाला।।

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"Regarded as royalty here, the fool chose to desert Lanka. The ill-fated fellow will be ground as a worm with the barley. Give me a brief report of the army of bears and monkeys. Their cruel destiny has driven them so close. 3

"Poor thing! The generous ocean has become a guardian of their lives. Then tell me about the ascetics who are mortally afraid of me. Did they meet you or leave on hearing my reputation? Why don't you speak about the morale and might of the hostile contingent? Your mind is startled with awe." 4 & D 53

Shuka replied, "Sire, you have done us a favour by making enquiries. Also please pay heed to us without being acrimonious. Ram applied the royal mark on your younger brother's forehead as soon as he joined Ram. C 1

"When the monkeys learnt that we were Ravana's spies, they tied and tortured us. They started slashing our ears and noses. Finally, they released us after we made a plea for the mercy of Ram. 2

"You enquired about Ram's army, but even a hundred crore mouths cannot describe the same. The army consists of bears and monkeys of different complexions. They have fierce faces, and their bodies are large and awesome. 3

"The monkey which incinerated the city, and killed your son is not as strong as other ones. Warriors are of uncountable names, and they are ruthless and dreadful. They possess the strength of innumerable elephants and have massive physiques. 4

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दो.– द्विबिद मयंद नील नल अंगद गद बिकटासि ।
दधिमुख केहरि निसठ सठ जामवंत बलरासि ।। ५४ ।।

ए कपि सब सुग्रीव समाना। इन्ह सम कोटिन्ह गनइ को नाना।।
राम कृपाँ अतुलित बल तिन्हहीं। तृन समान त्रैलोकहि गनहीं।।
अस मैं सुना श्रवन दसकंधर। पदुम अठारह जूथप बंदर।।
नाथ कटक महँ सो कपि नाहीं। जो न तुम्हहि जीतै रन माहीं।।
परम क्रोध मीजहिं सब हाथा। आयसु पै न देहिं रघुनाथा।।
सोषहिं सिंधु सहित झष ब्याला। पूरहिं न त भरि कुधर बिसाला ।।
मर्दि गर्द मिलवहिं दससीसा। ऐसेइ बचन कहहिं सब कीसा।।
गर्जहिं तर्जहिं सहज असंका। मानहुँ ग्रसन चहत हहिं लंका।।

दो.– सहज सूर कपि भालु सब पुनि सिर पर प्रभु राम ।
रावन काल कोटि कहुँ जीति सकहिं संग्राम ।। ५५ ।।

राम तेज बल बुधि बिपुलाई। सेष सहस सत सकहिं न गाई।।
सक सर एक सोषि सत सागर। तव भ्रातहि पूछेउ नय नागर।।
तासु बचन सुनि सागर पाहीं। मागत पंथ कृपा मन माहीं।।
सुनत बचन बिहसा दससीसा। जौं असि मति सहाय कृत कीसा।।
सहज भीरु कर बचन दृढ़ाई। सागर सन ठानी मचलाई।।
मूढ़ मृषा का करसि बड़ाई। रिपु बल बुद्धि थाह मैं पाई।।

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"Dwivid, Mayanda, Neela, Nala, Angada, Gada, D
Vikatasya, Dadhimukha, Kesri, Nishatha, Shatha and
Jambavanta — each one of them is a mass of strength. 54
C

"All monkeys are comparable with Sugriva. Their number is countless, and they possess unmatchable energy due to the grace of Ram. They consider the
three worlds as straw. 1

"Master, I have heard that there are eighteen billion monkeys in the army. There is no one amongst them
who is incapable of overpowering you in the combat. 2

"All are wringing their hands in rage. They threaten to dry up the sea along with fishes and snakes, or pave
it with rocks. Ram, however, does not give them a nod. 3

"All monkeys are boasting that they would mingle Ravana with dust. They thunder and threaten fear-
lessly as if they are about to swallow Lanka. 4
D

"All monkeys and bears are by nature brave, and Lord Ram is leading them. They can vanquish count-
less *Yamas*[43] in battle. 55

"Several *Sheshnagas* cannot describe the lusture, C
prowess and intellect of Ram. His one arrow is enough to parch hundreds of oceans. But Ram observes
propriety, so he has consulted your brother. 1

"Ram is kind and considerate of the sea-creatures. He has asked the sea for a passage on the advice of Vibhishana." Ravana had a hearty laugh, and bantered, "He is so intelligent that he has mustered monkeys as
his supporters! 2

"He is indulging in childish obstinacy with the sea on the advice of timid Vibhishana. Why are you falsely praising the enemy? I have been able to assess
his strength and intelligence. 3

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सचिव सभीत बिभीषन जाकें। बिजय बिभूति कहाँ जग ताकें।।

सुनि खल बचन दूत रिस बाढ़ी। समय बिचारि पत्रिका काढ़ी।।

रामानुज दीन्ही यह पाती। नाथ बचाइ जुड़ावहु छाती।।

बिहसि बाम कर लीन्ही रावन। सचिव बोलि सठ लाग बचावन।।

दो.– बातन्ह मनहि रिझाइ सठ जनि घालसि कुल खीस।

राम बिरोध न उबरसि सरन बिष्नु अज ईस।। ५६ (क)।।

की तजि मान अनुज इव प्रभु पद पंकज भृंग।

होहि कि राम सरानल खल कुल सहित पतंग।। ५६ (ख)।।

सुनत सभय मन मुख मुसकाई। कहत दसानन सबहि सुनाई।।

भूमि परा कर गहत अकासा। लघु तापस कर बाग बिलासा।।

कह सुक नाथ सत्य सब बानी। समुझहु छाड़ि प्रकृति अभिमानी।।

सुनहु बचन मम परिहरि क्रोधा। नाथ राम सन तजहु बिरोधा।।

अति कोमल रघुबीर सुभाऊ। जद्यपि अखिल लोक कर राऊ।।

मिलत कृपा तुम्ह पर प्रभु करिही। उर अपराध न एकउ धरिही।।

जनकसुता रघुनाथहि दीजे। एतना कहा मोर प्रभु कीजे।।

जब तेहिं कहा देन बैदेही। चरन प्रहार कीन्ह सठ तेही।।

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C

"How can one attain victory and prosperity in this world if he has cowardly Vibhishana as his adviser?" Shuka was incensed with the remark of Ravana. He thought it was a good opportunity to deliver the letter
of Lakshamana. 4

Shuka said to Ravan, "Master, Ram's younger brother has sent this letter for you. Please have it read out, and quell your anger." Ravana giggled, and casually took it by his left hand. He asked his secretary
to read it aloud. 5

D

In the letter it was written, 'Do not delude yourself by empty talk and destroy your tribe. Your animosity with Ram will not save you even in the haven of Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva. Abandon your vanity, and along with your younger brother make a beeline for Ram's lotus feet as a bumble-bee. Or else like moths your
race will be consumed in the fire of Ram's arrow.' 56 a & 56 b

C

At heart, Ravana was alarmed, but he wore a smile on the face. He spoke to the assembly, "The younger ascetic is given to boastful talk, as if someone lying on
the ground pretends to be holding the sky." 1

Shuka said, "Master, shed your innate self-conceit, and take the content of the letter as true. Do not be angry, and listen to my advice. Please cease animo-
sity with Ram. 2

"Ram's temperament is mild, eventhough he rules over the universe. He will be kind when he meets you,
and shall not harbour any of your offences. 3

"Please hand over Sita to Ram. Master, do this much on my advice." Ravana struck Shuka with his foot when he
suggested to him to return Sita. 4

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नाइ चरन सिरु चला सो तहाँ। कृपासिंधु रघुनायक जहाँ।।
करि प्रनामु निज कथा सुनाई। राम कृपाँ आपनि गति पाई।।
रिषि अगस्ति कीं साप भवानी। राछस भयउ रहा मुनि ग्यानी।।
बंदि राम पद बारहिं बारा। मुनि निज आश्रम कहुँ पगु धारा।।

दो.– बिनय न मानत जलधि जड़ गए तीनि दिन बीति ।
बोले राम सकोप तब भय बिनु होइ न प्रीति ।। ५७ ।।

लछिमन बान सरासन आनू। सोषौं बारिधि बिसिख कृसानू।।
सठ सन बिनय कुटिल सन प्रीती। सहज कृपन सन सुंदर नीती।।
ममता रत सन ग्यान कहानी। अति लोभी सन बिरति बखानी।।
क्रोधिहि सम कामिहि हरि कथा। ऊसर बीज बएँ फल जथा।।
अस कहि रघुपति चाप चढ़ावा। यह मत लछिमन के मन भावा।।
संधानेउ प्रभु बिसिख कराला। उठी उदधि उर अंतर ज्वाला।।
मकर उरग झष गन अकुलाने। जरत जंतु जलनिधि जब जाने।।
कनक थार भरि मनि गन नाना। बिप्र रूप आयउ तजि माना।।

दो.– काटेहिं पइ कदरी फरइ कोटि जतन कोउ सींच ।
बिनय न मान खगेस सुनु डाटेहिं पइ नव नीच ।। ५८ ।।

सभय सिंधु गहि पद प्रभु केरे। छमहु नाथ सब अवगुन मेरे।।
गगन समीर अनल जल धरनी। इन्ह कइ नाथ सहज जड़ करनी।।

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Shuka bowed to Ravana, and left for the place of C
Ram. He saluted Ram, and narrated his story. Shuka regained his previous mode of existence due to the grace of Ram. Shiva told Parvati that Shuka was an enlightened ascetic earlier. He became a demon after he was accursed by Sage Agastya. Shuka worshipped the
feet of Ram many times, and returned to his *asharam.* 5 & 6
D

Three days passed, but the dull-witted ocean did not concede to the request. Then Ram spoke with anger,
"There cannot be an alliance without fear. 57

"Lakshamana, bring the bow and arrow. I shall dry up the ocean with a fiery arrow. Making a request to a fool, friendship with an insincere person, inculcating righteous conduct in a wretched man, speaking of sacred knowledge to a selfish person, trying to pursuade a greedy man to be detached from worldly pleasures, to talk of tranquility to an acrimonious man, and narration of divine tales in front of a licentious person — these are
fruitless pursuits like sowing seeds in a wasteland." C 1 & 2

Ram wielded the bow. It elated Lakshamana. When Ram fixed the dreadful arrow to the bow-string,
conflagration rose from the bottom of the sea. 3

Crocodiles, snakes and fishes were agitated. The sea panicked that all creatures would be burnt. Shorn of all pride, the sea came in the garb of a *brahmin* carrying a
golden plate full of gems and jewels. 4
D

Kakabhushundi addressed Garuda, "Chief of birds, a plantain tree fructifies when pruned, and not by watering abundantly. A knave does not listen to
entreaty; it yields only when scolded." 58

The sea held the feet of Ram with fright, and C
implored, "Kindly pardon me for all my blemishes. Acts of sky, wind, fire, water and earth are by nature
senseless and apathetic. 1

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तव प्रेरित मायाँ उपजाए। सृष्टि हेतु सब ग्रंथनि गाए।।

प्रभु आयसु जेहि कहँ जस अहई। सो तेहि भाँति रहें सुख लहई।।

प्रभु भल कीन्ह मोहि सिख दीन्ही। मरजादा पुनि तुम्हरी कीन्ही।।

ढ़ोल गवाँर सूद्र पसु नारी। सकल ताड़ना के अधिकारी।।

प्रभु प्रताप मैं जाब सुखाई। उतरिहि कटकु न मोरि बड़ाई।।

प्रभु अग्या अपेल श्रुति गाई। करौं सो बेगि जो तुम्हहि सोहाई।।

दो.– सुनत बिनीत बचन अति कह कृपाल मुसुकाइ ।

जेहि बिधि उतरै कपि कटकु तात सो कहहु उपाइ ।।५९ ।।

नाथ नील नल कपि द्वौ भाई। लरिकाईं रिषि आसिष पाई।।

तिन्ह कें परस किएँ गिरि भारे। तरिहहिं जलधि प्रताप तुम्हारे।।

मैं पुनि उर धरि प्रभु प्रभुताई। करिहउँ बल अनुमान सहाई।।

एहि बिधि नाथ पयोधि बँधाइअ। जेहिं यह सुजसु लोक तिहुँ गाइअ।।

एहिं सर मम उत्तर तट बासी। हतहु नाथ खल नर अघ रासी।।

सुनि कृपाल सागर मन पीरा। तुरतहिं हरी राम रनधीरा।।

देखि राम बल पौरुष भारी। हरषि पयोनिधि भयउ सुखारी।।

सकल चरित कहि प्रभुहि सुनावा। चरन बंदि पाथोधि सिधावा।।

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"*Maya*, impelled by you has produced us for the cause of creation. All scriptures contain such utterances. Master, you give us assignments. Each one of us shall be happy to adhere to the same. 2

"Lord, you have done me a favour by teaching a lesson. But then the standards of propriety have also been set by you. Drums, bumpkins, servants, animals and shrews are liable to be beaten. 3

"I shall evaporate with your radiance. The army will disembark. I shall not transgress my limit. 'Your command is unviolable', say the *Vedas*. We shall do promptly whatever suits you." 4

Ram smiled at the humble plea of the sea, and spoke, "Tell me, my well-wisher, how can the army of monkeys land across?" D 59

The sea replied, "Neela and Nala are two monkey brothers. They received a boon in their childhood from a sage. By your grace and with their touch large rocks would float on the sea. C 1

"I shall keep in mind your supremacy, and render assistance according to my ability. Thus, you may bridge the sea, so that your renown spreads in the three worlds. 2

"Master, with the arrow already fixed to your bow-string, please kill miscreants who are living on my northern-shore. They are a heap of evil-deeds." Ram heard the request of the sea, and removed its mental agony promptly. 3

The sea was delighted to see the strength and heroism of Ram. It related the entire history of those wicked men to him. Then the sea worshipped Ram's feet, and departed. 4

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छं.– निज भवन गवनेउ सिंधु श्रीरघुपतिहि यह मत भायऊ।

यह चरित कलि मलहर जथामति दास तुलसी गायऊ।।

सुख भवन संसय समन दवन बिषाद रघुपति गुन गना।

तजि सकल आस भरोस गावहि सुनहि संतत सठ मना।।

दो.– सकल सुमंगल दायक रघुनायक गुन गान।

सादर सुनहिं ते तरहिं भव सिंधु बिना जलजान ।। ६० ।।

सुन्दरकाण्ड समाप्त

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The sea returned to its dwelling. Ram approved its counsel. This saga which removes the impurities of *kaliyuga* [44] has been narrated by Tulsidas according to his belief and understanding. Ram's attributes are an abode of happiness.They resolve uncertainties and mitigate dejection. Oh doubting mind! surrender all hopes and reliance on others. Keep on singing praises of Ram and listening to the recitation of his attributes. Ch

Narration of Ram's virtues is auspicious and brings good fortune.Those who hear these virtues with reverence, sail across the mundane ocean without a boat. D 60

Sundarkand concluded

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IN CONCLUSION...

The portrayal of Hanuman's role is outstanding in Sundarkand. He is epitomised for his faith in Ram, bravery, humility and eloquence.

Hanuman did not carry any weapon with him to the alien territory of Lanka. Faith in Ram was his only armour. He encountered there demonic forces of *Maya*[45] during the voyage. They were from the ether, ocean and earth. All the three were female demons. Hanuman was a celibate. He overpowered them with dexterity.

Sursa was sent by the gods and signified the *satoguna.*[46] She met Hanuman in the sky. He addressed her as 'mother'. He displayed his intelligence and valour. Sursa blessed him and let him go.

The second attack came from Singhika, the demon who operated from the sea. She represented the *tamoguna*[47]. Hanuman killed her instantly.

The third challenge took place on land. Lankini, symbolizing the *rajoguna* [48], was tamed by Hanuman. She turned friendly.

Hanuman took up greater pursuits with the synergy of *Sattva* and *rajas,* the two properties of nature. However, Hanuman's devotion *(bhakti)* for Ram was the paramount driving force behind all his actions.

Sita's benediction to Hanuman to be immortal provided him his second armour.

The bravery of Hanuman was witnessed in the *ashoka* grove. He found tree-branches handy in the absence of his favourite mace. He killed Akshayakumar with one tree and broke Meghanada's chariot with another. He grappled with demon soldiers and destroyed them.

Ravana's own subjects supplied all the materials e.g. cloth, *ghee* and oil in the burning of Lanka. Hanuman emerged unscathed from the fire and earned his freedom.

The instances of Hanuman's humility which appear in Sundarkand are recalled here: 1. Hanuman manifested his

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innate body before Sita to clear her doubt regarding monkey's capability to match up to demons. It was like a golden mountain and terrifying in the battlefield. He attributed this endowment to 'Master's power'. (D 16) 2. Sita blessed Hanuman, "..... may Ram be very kind to you." (16.3) Hanuman knew her blessings were unfailing.He expressed gratitude to Sita. But, instead of feeling proud, he instantly remembered his monkeys' trait. He told Sita that he felt hungry after seeing the fruit-trees. 3. When Hanuman returned from Lanka, Ram asked him how he was able to burn the city protected by Ravana. Hanuman spoke without pride,'....all that is due to your grace, Master, and not my superiority at all. (32.5)

Hanuman's fine manner of speech is found in the following instances : 1. The choice of words and metaphors used by Hanuman in conveying the message of Ram's love to Sita with modesty and propriety. 2. Hanuman's dialogue with Vibhishana reassuring the latter regarding the merciful disposition of Ram. 3. Hanuman's dignified and fearless eloquence in the assembly of Ravana. 4. Hanuman's conversation with Ram on his return from Lanka when he communicated Sita's message, described her pathetic state and pleaded with Ram to' ... leave fast to fetch her after defeating the wicked demons...., (D 31)

Both Sita and Ram addressed Hanuman as 'son' for the first time in Sundarkanda. (15.3 and 31.4 respectively)

A *shloka* propitiating Hanuman is included in the *mangalacharan* (i.e. the auspicious prayer at the beginning of the chapter) in Sundarkand.

In India and some other countries Hanuman is venerated as a propitious deity. Recitation of Sundarkand has a special place in the worship of Hanuman.

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Sundarkand appears as 'Pancham Sopana' (5th step in the ladder) in Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas. Valmiki gave the name, Sundarkand, to this chapter in his Ramayana composed in Sanskrit. All descriptions, dialogues and depiction of characters are splendid.

The devotion of Vibhishana for Ram is exemplary. Equally inspiring is its acceptance by Ram in full measure. He granted shelter to Vibhishana, and made him the king of Lanka.

The description of Sita's sublime character gets ample coverage in Sundarkand. Her rebuke to Ravana in the presence of his consorts affirms her boldness and purity. Noble as she was, Sita did not attempt to escape from Lanka with the help of Hanuman. She chose instead to stay on and wait for Ram to rescue her with glory. Sita's dialogues with Ravana and Trijata as well as her soliloquy in distress at the grove were filled with devotion. Her trust in Hanuman's' sharp intelligence and strength' (D17) was vindicated by his feats at Lanka.

Ram's greatness was described by Hanuman in his exhortation at Ravan's court. He said that by Ram's 'power Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh create, preserve and destroy...' (20.3) Vibhishana, in his conversation with Ravana, stated that Ram 'is Brahman, the attributeless absolute...' and'... Bhagwan, the personal God...' (38.1) Both Hanuman and Vibhishana extolled the chanting of the name 'Ram'. They praised Ram's mercy for the aspirants who sought his refuge. Ram's message, in this connection was loud and clear. 'A man with a chaste mind has access to me. I do not like guile, deceit and moral weakness.' (43.3)

Ram revealed his disposition to Vibhishana, 'There are strings of attachment with mother, father, kinsman, son, wife, health, wealth, house, friend and household. Let a man twine

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these strings into a rope, and tie his heart to my feet with it. He should be unbiased, and his mind be free from desires, pleasures, distress and fear. Such a good man will abide in my heart like money in the bosom of a greedy man.' (47.2-4) It is said about Sundarkanda :

सुन्दरे सुन्दरो रामः सुन्दरे सुन्दरी कथा।
सुन्दरे सुन्दरी सीता सुन्दरे किन्न सुन्दरम् ।।

'Ram is beautiful in Sundarkanda, stories are beautiful. Sita is beautiful. What is not beautiful in Sundarkanda?'

* * *

Views expressed in this section are neither new nor original. Commentaries on Ramcharitmanas, written and spoken, have become part of the lore. The translator has derived insight and inspiration, subject to his capacity, from readings of esteemed publications of Gita Press, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) over a long time. I have taken guidance of my erudite friend, Shri A.N.D. Haksar, I.F.S. (Retd.) who has translated ten Sanskrit classics into English, published by leading companies.

This book has been projected for devotees who read and recite Sundarkand in original i.e. in Hindi (Avadhi dialect) for its sanctity. Yet, they may find it easier to understand the meaning from an English translation.

Ram Navami **Ravi Shanker**

24th March, 2010

Noida (Uttar Pradesh).

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NOTES

Different forms of poetic metres :-

Chhanda - A particular metre often used for an incantation-hymn or a sacred-hymn.

Shloka - A Sanṣkrit stanza in set metres mainly *anushtubh*; often a hymn of praise.

Doha - A couplet.

Chaupai - Usually of two lines of two parts *(ardhali)* each. Hence, 4 legs (chau=4, pai=legs).

Sortha - A popular couplet in mediaeval Hindi poetry. The two lines rhyme differently. But if the first half of each line is recited in the last, then both the lines will rhyme like that of a doha.

1. **Blemishes** - There are 6 blemishes : sensual (lust), anger, avarice, arrogance, delusion of mind and jealousy.
2. **Words of Jambavanta** - At the end of the previous chapter, Jambavanta, an adviser of Sugriva and the chief of the bears asked Hanuman to cross over the sea and bring news of Sita.
3. **Patala** - The nether region.
4. **Mainaka** - It is said that in ancient days moutains had wings. They used to harass people and fly away. Indra, once, dismembered their wings with his thunderbolt. However, Mainaka, also known as Sumeru, went hiding into the sea.
5. **Yojana** - One yojana is equal to 8 miles approx.
6. **Female demon** - Her name was Singhika.
7. **Shiva** - He narrated the story of Ram to his consort Parvati.
8. **Nagas** - Denizens of the nether region.
9. **Moksha** - The final liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

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10. **Kakabhushundi** - He was a devotee of Ram. In one of his birth he was a crow, and narrated the story of Ram to Garuda.
11. **Garuda** - The chief of the feathered race; a large bird; an enemy of serpents; the vehicle of Vishnu.
12. **Tulsi** - A basil plant regarded as sacred.
13. **Brahmin** - A socially and culturally superior person.
14. **Tamas** - One of the three qualities or constituents of everything in creation; the cause of heavyness, ignorance, illusion, lust, anger, pride, sorrow, dullness and stolidity. The other two qualities of nature or the state of humanity are Rajas and Sattva. Rajas is 'darkening' quality, passion, emotion and affection; it is the material cause of great activity in creatures. Sattva is the quality of purity and goodness; it renders a person true, honest, wise and magnanimous.
15. **Chandrahasa** - Ravana's glittering scimitar; 'moon derider'.
16. **Ashoka tree** - The name comprises of the negative prefix 'a' and the suffix 'shoka' meaning grief. Thus, ashoka means free of sorrow.
17. **Maya** - illusion; magic.
18. **Three worlds** - Namely, this world - Mrityuloka, ether - Akashaloka and the nether world - Patalaloka.
19. **Brahmastra** - An unfailing missile in ancient Indian warfare.
20. **Maya** - One of the 9 Shaktis or energies of Vishnu, regarded as the source of the visible universe.
21. **Brahma** - The creator of the universe and the first of the triad of the personal gods (Tri-Murti).
22. **Vishnu** - The preserver of the universe. Although, he comes second in the triad, he is identified with the supreme deity.

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23. **Mahesh** - Another name of Shiva; the disintegrating or destroying and reproducing deity; the third god of the triad.
24. **Khar** - A demon warrior, and a brother of Ravana.
25. **Dushana** - A demon and general of Ravana.
26. **Trishira** - A demon.
27. **Bali** - Elder brother of Sugriva and father of Angada. According to a legend Bali carried his adversary Ravana, in his armpit for 6 months. Bali was killed by Ram.
28. **Sahasrabahu** - A king who had a thousand arms. Ravana lost to him in a battle.
29. **Sage Pulastya** - He was the grand-father of Ravana.
30. **Shankar** - Another name of Shiva.
31. **Saraswati** - The goddess of speech and learning; another name of Sharada which has been used in the verse.
32. **Girija** - It means born of 'a mountain'; an epithet of Parvati, the consort of Shiva.
33. **Indra's son** - His name was Jayanta. In the beginning of the third chapter of Ramcharitmanas (Aranyakanda) there is a story of Jayanta. He mischievously adopted the form of a crow and pecked Sita's toe. Ram shot an arrow of reed from his bow which started chasing Jayanta. The latter could not find an asylum anywhere, and eventually returned to Ram for refuge.
34. **Elephants** - As per the tradition, 8 elephants of the cardinal points are supporting the earth.

35 & 36. **Sheshnaga and the Turtle** - According to the scriptures, the boar, the trutle, Sheshnaga and the elephants are holding the universe. At the base is the boar, then the turtle, then Sheshnaga and on top of Sheshnaga are the elephants.

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37. Fourteen worlds - 7 higher regions rising above the earth are Bhurlok, Bhuvlok, Swarlok, Maharlok, Janarlok, Taparlok and Satyalok. 7 lower regions descending from the earth are Atal, Vital, Satal, Rasatal, Talatal, Mahatal and Patal.

38. Three kinds of miseries - (Trayatapa) The triple affliction i.e. physcial *(daihik)*, divine *(daivik)* and mudane *(bhautik)*.

39 & 40. Puranas & Nigamas - Puranas consist of 18 works composed by Vyasa containing sacred narratives. Nigmas is another name of the Vedas.

41. Uma - This is another name for Parvati.

42. Ahalya - She was accursed by her husband, Sage Gautam, when he came to know of her seduction by Indra, the chief of the gods. She turned into a stone, and was restored to her former shape by Ram when he touched the stone with his feet.

43. Yama - Also known as Yamaraj, he is regarded as the regent of the dead.

44. Kaliyuga - Out of 4 ages (yugas) three viz. Kriti or Satya, Treta and Dwapara have elapsed. Ram lived in Treta. We are in the fourth age viz. Kaliyuga which began on 18th February, 3102 B.C. The duration of each age i.e. 4,32,000 years represent similar descending order of physical and moral deterioration of men. Ours is the iron age, the worst and discredited with strife, moral and spiritual degradation in society. The world is to be destroyed at the end of this age.

45. Maya - The source of the visible universe.

46. Satoguna - See 'Sattva' in point No. 14.

47. Tamoguna - See 'Tamas' in point No. 14.

48. Rajoguna - See 'Rajas' in point No. 14.

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